

War danger in Africa dominates Commonwealth conference

nger of war in southern Africa dominated the opening the Commonwealth conference in London yesterday. gs of the growing dangers in the region were given

by Mr Callaghan and by President Kaunda of Zambia. The Ugandan seat at the conference table remained empty. There were varying reports of President Amin's whereabouts.

Zambian leader's warning of 'perilous dark shadow'

Spanier
Berthoud
Callaghan opened the
meeting of Com-
monwealth heads of
state yesterday
after a warning to
the world of southern
Africa through the
Queen's speech.
He said the world
must be aware of the
perilous dark
shadow hanging over
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Commonwealth walkabout: Mr Callaghan leads the heads of the Commonwealth delegations to a reception at Marlborough House after the official opening of the conference.

...but there was no dis-
cussion about it.
In his address, Mr Callaghan
said that there were in southern
Africa an ever increasing
number of people who saw the
sun as the only means of
achieving freedom. "They are
being proved right unless those
ruling minorities whose short-
sightedness has so far led them
to repudiate self-determination
and majority rule quickly
change their attitude and cease
to block the path of negotiated
settlement. The problem of
southern Africa will not go
away; it will intensify", he
said.
"Today, more than ever
before, the issues of peace or
war, of racial harmony or racial
conflict, hang in the balance."
...Which path will the minori-
ties of southern Africa choose?
Britain fervently hopes that
there will be a peaceful and
negotiated settlement to ensure
the future of Zimbabwe
(Rhodesia) and Namibia.
Somewhere, he said, the
world must make it clear now
that the "corrosive" of war
policy is our deep seated and
unshakeable belief in the rights
of the individual and in the

capacity of all men, regardless
of colour and creed to live in
conditions of equality and
mutual respect."
The Prime Minister said that
no matter how great the indus-
trialized members of the Com-
monwealth might think their
present problems were, the
questions in the developing
countries among the Common-
wealth's 36 members were more
startling and elemental. It was
the conference's task to seek
answers to the most urgent
questions about poverty and in-
equality, and about the best use
of the world's resources.
He would like to see an
even wider range of agree-
ment at the North-South con-
ference in Paris, which ended
last week.
Mr Michael Manley, the
Jamaican Prime Minister, is
expected to make an important
contribution on this theme on
Friday. Informal sources sug-
gest he will advocate some
form of consultative framework
within the United Nations in
which a negotiated North-South
dialogue could continue to take
place.
Adopting a typically philoso-
phical line, Mr Desai, the
Indian Prime Minister, said the

problems concerned not so
much the haves and the have
nots, but humanity as a whole.
He drew strength from recent
events in India. "In our own
country recently, you have seen
how a democratic upsurge can
sweep before it personalities
which seem to have acquired a
permanent lease of power and
institutions which seemed
impregnable", he said.
Mr Shridath Ramphal, the
Commonwealth Secretary-
General said the past two years
had seen more intensive global
consultation than perhaps any
comparable period in the world's
history. Yet not since the Com-
monwealth conference in Kin-
gston in May, 1975, had even
a sample of the leadership of
North and South met together
outside their own caucuses
until now.
He believed the Common-
wealth could bring to the
troubled world that "touch of
heaven" which Mr Nehru, the
former Indian Prime Minister,
saw as its great vocation.
Meanwhile, there had been a
wide range of practical co-
operation in such fields as educa-
tion, health, law, food production,
rural development, technology

and science which should be
intensified.
Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Prime
Minister of Singapore, opened
the afternoon's review of the
international situation with a
long attack on communist sub-
version.
The question was not whether
there would be majority rule in
Rhodesia by 1978, he said. It
was whether, even after a black
majority government was in-
stalled, it would be possible to
dissolve Marxist-trained guer-
illas and their leaders from
carrying on their insurgency
from neighbouring states.
Mr Lee warned the oil pro-
ducing countries against playing
into the hands of the com-
munists. "If they pressed too
hard he said, they would only
drive the non-oil producing coun-
tries of the Third World be pushed
against the wall, but the indus-
trial economies of the West
would take such a beating that
the balance of power between
the communist and non-com-
munist nations would be upset."
The Queen and the Duke of
Edinburgh gave a dinner at
Buckingham Palace last night
for the Commonwealth heads
of state and their wives.
Conference notebook and
other news, page 8

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cussion about it.
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President Amin keeps everyone guessing

By Stewart Tendler

The whereabouts and inten-
tions of President Amin of
Uganda remained a mystery
yesterday despite repeated
assertions from Uganda that he
was on his way to the Com-
monwealth Conference in London.
Meanwhile, the Uganda Gov-
ernment announced a ban on
Britons leaving the country,
saying President Amin would
decide about their status when
he returned (page 7).
The Ugandan issued a warn-
ing against attempts to rescue
the Britons, estimated to num-
ber about 240 persons.
Uganda radio repeated that
the President was on his way
to Britain and Mr Idi Osumu,
Uganda's representative in
Britain, said that President
Amin would arrive in the
country by the end of the week.
Mr Osumu said the Common-
wealth Conference would give
the President the chance to
refute the allegations against
him.

Uganda radio said President
Amin left for Britain on Tues-
day morning, but Mr Osumu
said: "If President Amin
comes he will arrive in his
presidential jet and not by a
scheduled flight."
Yesterday The Times tele-
phoned the presidential com-
mand post in Entebbe and was
told that President Amin would
arrive late yesterday or today.
Asked how he would arrive the
official at the command post
said that the President might
come by air or by sea.

A telephone call to the office
of the Ugandan Vice-President
in Kampala elicited the in-
formation that President Amin,
his Vice-President and "900
delegates" had taken off yester-
day morning and could be
expected in Britain at any time.

Ugandan flights regularly
arrive at Stansted airport in
Essex and yesterday morning
two Boeing 707s from Uganda
Always noted down. They
were carrying passengers and
cargo but no President Amin
or 900 delegates.

The next scheduled arrival at
Stansted is a large Hercules
C130 transport plane.
A spokesman for President
Amin told a Norwegian radio
reporter on the telephone from
Kampala yesterday morning
that President Amin had left
the Arab country where he had
stayed overnight and was
travelling by ship to Britain.

His decision has caused a sudden worsening
of relations between the parties making up
the Government majority.

Mr Mason increases undercover role of Army in Ulster

From Our Own Correspondent
Belfast

Less than a month after the
humiliating collapse of the
second "loyalist" strike in
Northern Ireland, Mr Mason,
Secretary of State for Ulster,
yesterday announced compre-
hensive ranges of new security
measures aimed primarily at
the Provisional IRA.

In a series of interviews Mr
Mason later denied that the
Government's move was a re-
sponse to the abortive protest
by extreme Protestants. He said
it was based on a genuine
recognition of disquiet in the
whole community about the
effectiveness of security policy
and was drawn up after an
intensive series of discussions
with Ulster's main political
parties.

The measures range from
increased penalties for a variety
of terrorist crimes to offers of
improved weapons for the
peace, but its crucial section
disclosed a much increased
undercover role for the British
Army.

Although no numbers have
been mentioned officially, it
is understood that several
hundred soldiers will be sent
to Ulster in the next few weeks
for a variety of covert opera-
tions to run in parallel to those
already being undertaken by
The Special Air Services Regi-
ment.

In the future the Govern-
ment plans to lay much greater
emphasis on the intelligence
gathering activities of the
Army, relying heavily on the
experience gained by many
individual soldiers and intelli-
gence officers over the past few
years. At the same time the
number of uniformed patrols will
be cut and the emergency
squadron will be
withdrawn to Britain next week.
But Mr Mason categorically
denied last night that the total
number of British troops
stationed in Northern Ireland
would drop below its pre-strike
figure of 14,000.
By emphasizing the primacy
of the police in the Govern-
ment's long-term strategy, the
underlying theme of British
security policy outlined in the
measures remains consistent
with that followed for the
last few years. But Mr
Mason has again demon-
strated an outward determina-
tion to stamp out terrorism
which has won him much popu-
larity recently among local
politicians.
Apart from the increase in
undercover squads, membership
of the part-time Ulster Defence
Regiment is to be raised by 700
men, more policemen are to be
recruited, a new offence with
a five-year maximum sentence has
been created for bomb-hoaxers,
and the maximum penalty for
Continued on page 6, col 4

Thatcher plea for private art

By Craig Seton

Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the
Opposition, made a plea yester-
day for more private collec-
tions of art works. She sug-
gested that too many works of
art were going to museums
rather than the natural setting
of the nation's country houses.
High taxation had forced the
sale of the contents of Ment-
more Towers, she said.
Patronage should not be by the
state alone.

Opening the annual Gros-
venor House Antiques Fair in
London, she said that while
museums had done a wonder-
ful job in preserving the
nation's heritage, "it would be
a pity if we were only to see
our wonderful treasures in
museums."

"We must strive to see that
people are still enabled to
see some of them in country
houses so that they can be
seen in the setting for which
they were designed. They were
designed for a style of living."

Mrs Thatcher said of the
Mentmore sale: "Perhaps the
real tragedy is that capital tax-
ation is such that Lord Rose-
bery had to sell at all and
could not pass it on as an
inheritance."

The fair is open until June
13. An estimated 10,000
antiques and works of art,
valued at £300,000, are on display.
To mark the silver jubilee,
the Goldsmiths' Company has
lent Queen Elizabeth's Cora-
tion Cup, made in 1554 and
known as the Boves Cup.
Other loans include collections
from the Queen, Queen Eliza-
beth, the Queen Mother, and
other members of the Royal
Family.

Minister's warning, page 6

Soames post with bank in the City

By Ross Davies

Sir Christopher Soames has
turned to the City to take up
his first appointment since
relinquishing his post as vice-
president of the EEC and
Commissioner for External
Relations at the end of last
year.

It was announced yesterday
that he is to become a non-
executive director of the mer-
chant bank N. M. Rothschild &
Sons. He said yesterday that
he still planned to return to
Conservative politics, although
he was not yet seeking a seat.

He underwent heart surgery
in London in January and
announced last week that he
would delay his return to poli-
tics on medical advice. His job
at the bank is a part-time one
and concerned with the de-
velopment of international
business. His main concern at
the EEC was with the
Community's external trade
relations.

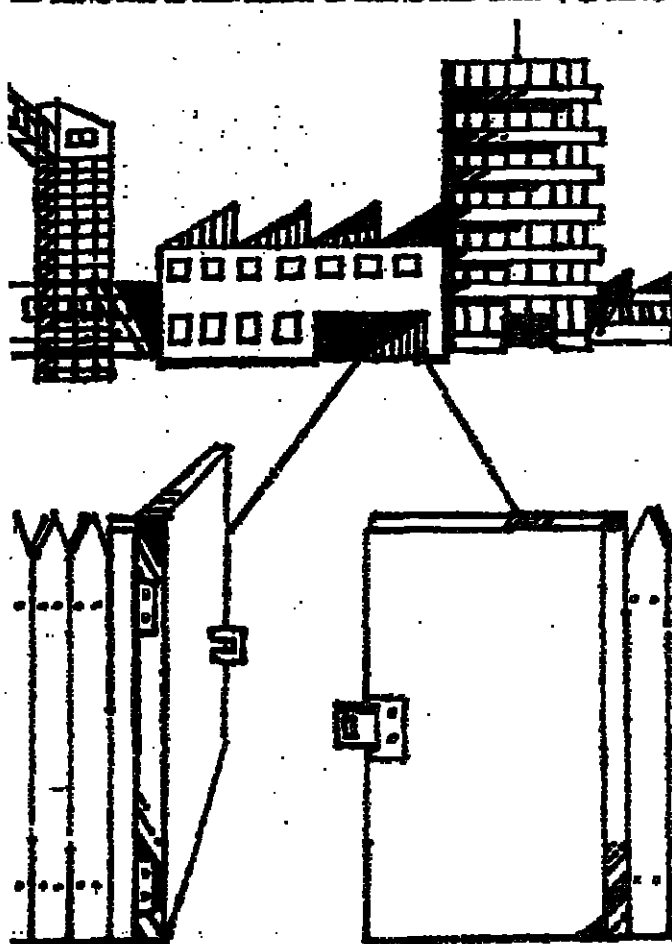
Business Diary, page 19

Children die in shed collapse

Parents saw their two child-
ren, Nicholas Mark Hall, aged
six, and his sister, Christine,
aged three, die yesterday while
out for a walk in a park near
Ocean Road, South Shields,
Tyne and Wear.

The children, from Great
Lumley, near Chester-Le-Street,
Durham, strayed into a
derelict shed and it collapsed,
its concrete roof crashing on
them.

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00 in all walks of life receive en's Silver Jubilee Medal

ung after Jubilee
ing an unusually
coming for more
citizens yesterday.
came through the
registered pack-
it was a complete



Obverse of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal.

10 were the un-
recipients of the
r Jubilee Medal, a
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Diligent consul-
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the Silver Jubilee
Service suspecting
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report of a vil-
lenger close to
who collapsed
when her mother
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system's net caught
who had been
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scipents, though
did not apply to
ey were that pre-
ld be shown to
had given service
hrough the Queen's

mounted by a crown and sur-
rounded with a wreath of
silver birch foliage and
cascades occupies the reverse.
The accompanying ribbon is
one and a quarter inches wide,
watered white with a central
strip of cardinal red. Garter
blue on one side and finish-
ing edges of cardinal red.

Because it was struck at the
royal Mint the medal does not
require, or qualify for, a ju-
bilee hallmark. It is an official
medal, to be worn on all oc-
casions when decorations and
medals are called for.

Medals such as this are
issued rarely. The last was at
the Queen's coronation, the
one before that at King George
V's jubilee.

In addition to more than
30,000 medals awarded in the
United Kingdom (one has
yet been able to count the
exact number), "many thou-
sands" more were issued in
the other surviving monarchies
of the Commonwealth. Canada,
however, chose to strike her
own medal at her own mint.

The announcement of the
medals last November said that
they would be received "on or
shortly after June 8". If none
arrived yesterday, the authori-
ties say, it is remarkably pos-
sible that a surprise, or two may
turn up in this morning's post.
"After all, one cannot always
rely on the post after a long
holiday", an official said.

Those who are still without
the medal, the postman has called
this morning, though, are
urged not to make contact
with Buckingham Palace, 10
Downing Street, or anyone
else.

Jubilee trail, page 2

President Carter bars \$4,000m jet sale to Iran

The proposed sale of 250 advanced American jet
fighters to Iran at a cost of about \$4,000m has
been barred under President Carter's new policy
of reducing United States arms sales abroad.
Officials in Washington said the deal conflicted
with several provisions of the policy, particularly
as Iran was not in any danger of attack.
It was a signal that Iran, although a close ally,
could not expect "an unending flow of arms".
Page 7

Tesco cuts its prices between 3 pc and 20 pc

Tesco Stores formally declared a High Street
price war with cuts of between 3 per cent and
20 per cent. Having dropped Green Shield
stamps, Tesco will now cut the price of fresh
meat, poultry, fish, food, bread and
biscuits. Cuts of up to 15 per cent will affect
such items as fresh meat, butter, frozen foods
and tea.
Page 17

Dr Castro's prisoners

President Castro of Cuba has admitted that
there are between 2,000 and 3,000 political
prisoners in his jails. In the early years of the
revolution, about 15,000 people were detained.
Dr Castro's admission was made in a television
interview with the American Broadcasting
Corporation. He said full relations with America
would take a long time to restore.
Page 9

Pig deal in Brussels

Britain's pig breeders can expect their prices to
go up by about 3.7 per cent if EEC proposals to
aid the pigmeat industry are approved tomor-
row. But the Commission rejects the claim that
British pig producers deserve special help.
Page 7

Italians lead group

Italy lead England by one goal in their World
Cup qualifying group after their 3-0 victory
over Finland in Helsinki. Italy have three games
left to play and England two. They meet at
Wembley in November. The Italians have
Finland and Luxembourg to play in Rome, and
even if they lose to England their goal
difference could see them through to the finals.
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Leader says 15

Letters: On the Queen's reign,
from Dr Mable Frankland and Mr
C. M. Torgill; and on the cover
of EEC membership, from Mr
Douglas Jay and others.
Leading articles: The Irish elec-
tion; A barrage before Belgrade;
Survival of whales.
Features, pages 14 and 24.
Romantic fiction: The Cheating
crowds; Dr William Sargent on
the 'Moulin Rouge' gunman; Brian
Garner on the question of shared
schools in Ulster.
Books, page 12.
Adam Ferguson reviews two
books on Scotland and national-
ism; Ned Chaffert on the enigma
of Howard Hughes; Richard
Holmes on John Fowles' revised
version of his celebrated novel,
The Magus.
Arts, page 13.
Alan Coren on the Queen on
television; Art Fair; William Mann
on Pirelli's The Fairy Queen at
Sadler's Wells.
Obituary, page 16.
Sir John Wrigley: Professor P.
J. B. Fletcher.
Sport, pages 9-11.
Cricket: Christopher Cowdrey
scores century for Kent against
Sussex; Rugby Union: Billy
Beaumont to join British Lions in
New Zealand; Tennis: Guillermo

Vilas beaten in first round at
Nottingham; Racing: Newbury
prospects and report.
Business News, pages 17-23.
Stock Markets: Dealing resumed
sluggishly after the holiday and
the FT index closed 2.1 down at
425.7 in thin trading.
Financial Editor: Crystal-gazing
at Metal Box; How fast is the
recovery at M&P; Room for the
genuine investor.
Business features: Roger Viehwede
looks at British Gas preparing for
a natural gas run-down; Caroline
Aldridge, in the weekly Economic
notebook, suggests that the invest-
ment boom might be a little late
this year.

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HOME NEWS

Mr Jones condemns Government on pensions

By Tim Jones
Labour Reporter

Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, yesterday warned the Labour Party that grave harm would be inflicted on the "morale and solidarity of the movement" unless it acted to improve pensions.

In a letter to Mr Ronald Howard, general secretary of the party, he condemned the Government for not implementing successive Labour Party and TUC conference commitments on pensions.

He called on the Labour Party executive for "an immediate undertaking" that at the party conference in September an "absolute assurance" will be given that everything possible will be done.

Both the party and the TUC Mr Jones stated, are committed to bringing pensions up to at least half of average earnings for married couples and a third of that level for single pensioners.

He criticized the recent £2.50 and £2.20 pension increases as inadequate. "The serious plight of many pensioners in the current inflationary situation cannot be doubted, and this union believes that the Labour Party must clearly identify with the needs of the people."

The letter ended: "This commitment to the needs of our retired people cannot be further neglected without grave harm to the morale and solidarity of the movement."

MP alleges confusion on invalid tricycles

By Pat Healy

Contradictory statements by government ministers over the reason for phasing out the invalid tricycle has led to the matter being referred to Sir Idwal Pugh, the Parliamentary Commissioner.

Mr Jeffrey Rooker, Labour MP for Birmingham, Perry Barr, said yesterday that Sir Idwal had told him that there seemed to be a prima facie evidence of maladministration, but that he would make inquiries before deciding whether to investigate.

Mr Rooker's evidence cites a series of ministerial statements which, he says, contradict each other and leave tricycle drivers confused as to the real reason for phasing out the vehicle. In a brief prepared for Sir Idwal, Mr Rooker points out that Mr Enoch, Secretary of State for Social Services, first stated that the decision was caused by the failure of the vehicle to meet international regulations to which Britain must subscribe.

But Mr Rooker's own research of the relevant directives from the European Economic Community showed that they did not apply to three-wheel vehicles. Mr Rooker also contends that the directives are not binding on member states.

When he raised the issue again he was told by Mr Morris, Under-Secretary of State for the Disabled, that the "factor of real significance" was that the tricycle could not go on meeting Britain's own road safety regulations. Those regulations were passed in June, 1976, a month before the decision to phase out the invalid tricycle was announced.

Before the regulations were presented formally to Parlia-

ment, they were discussed between officials at the departments of transport and health to clear the situation on invalid tricycles, Mr Rooker said.

Mr Rooker told Mr Rooker in a letter disclosed yesterday. Mr Rooker wrote that the regulations "do not impose criteria which will preclude invalid vehicles issued by the Department of Health and Social Security being used on the roads of this country."

The interdepartmental meeting agreed that the invalid tricycle would be able to meet present approval requirements, Mr Rooker wrote. The vehicle was now undergoing tests with a view to granting it approval under the new regulations which would apply to new vehicles manufactured after October 1, 1977, and first registered on or after April 1, 1978.

Mr Rooker said yesterday that he had told Sir Idwal that the uncertainty facing existing tricycle drivers amounted to injustice. So did the fact that about a thousand disabled people in Britain had been denied tricycles since last August.

Existing tricycle drivers have been given repeated assurances but no guarantee that there will be another vehicle adapted to their needs," Mr Rooker said.

Sir Idwal's office said yesterday that they were awaiting a substantive reply from the Department of Health before deciding whether to investigate the issue. If they went ahead, it would be a limited investigation on the reasons behind the Government's decision to phase out the tricycle.

The Honours System 1: Fascination persists despite the demands for abolition
The great British obsession with 'pelf and place'

By Peter Hennessy

"Looking through the photographs in the New Year Honours list, I am struck (as usual) by the quite exceptional vigour and vigour of the faces displayed there. It seems to be almost the rule that the kind of person who earns the right to call himself Lord Percy de Falconsbury should look at best like an overfed publican and at worst like a tax-collector with a duodenal ulcer." — George Orwell, *Tribune*, January 7, 1944.

How the recipients of Sir Harold Wilson's patronage would have inspired the polemicist in Orwell had he lived to witness their preferential Sound and fury about the honours system has been one of the few stable features of postwar life in Britain. Our obsession with 'pelf and place', to borrow a phrase from the Red Flag, has provided much therapeutic satisfaction for our more radical citizens and has wonder and amusement for foreign observers.

On Saturday morning a bumper Jubilee Honours list will be published. Unless it contains a knighthood for Mr Peter Jay, the Prime Minister's son, or a peerage for Mr Tom McCaffrey, Mr Callaghan's press secretary, its very normality may do much to heal the memory of Sir Harold's creations.

There could be nothing better than a British Empire Medal for a school janitor, a



Sir Antony Part: Full sash and insignia. Mr Wedgwood Benn: Keen photographer.

CBE for a beekeeper or two and a knighthood for an exporter of nuts and bolts for rescuing the reputation of the system from the former Prime Minister's cheeky risk-taking.

But fascination with honours and occasional calls for their abolition or reform will persist. It is not simply a matter of envy or class fixation. Perhaps that original economist and social scientist, Professor Fred Hirsch, of Warwick University, pointed towards an answer in his book, *Social Limits to Growth*, published earlier this year.

Addressing the riddle of why greater affluence tends to make people more miserable,

he declared there were certain good things in life, paintings, country cottages with fine views, which were subject to physical limits and permanent scarcity, available to but a privileged few whatever the general level of prosperity. Positional goods, Professor Hirsch called them.

If ever there was a positional good it is an honour. The lists are subject to strict numerical quotas, relaxed only on special occasions such as a coronation or a jubilee. If Professor Hirsch is right, however rich and harmonious British society might become, honours will remain a source of heat rather than light.

The case for honours is well known. They are a cheap and reputable way of rewarding voluntary service and exceptional merit and bring harmless pleasure twice a year to those upon whom they are conferred, their families and friends. But some who accept such a sensible justification believe matters could be better arranged if the element of personal prime ministerial patronage was removed.

Sir Harold's memorable efforts would surely have been impossible if a commission of wise men and women, drawn from a representative spread of society, had been responsible for making recommendations to the Queen. It is difficult to imagine a future prime minister relinquishing voluntarily so potent a weapon of personal patronage as the honours system.

The radical case for root-and-branch reform of the honours system will be made at this year's Labour Party conference in a report from a working group on the machinery of government appointed by the party's national executive committee.

An early item on its agenda was reconsideration of a paper drafted in 1964 by Mr Wedgwood Benn, the former Lord Stansgate and now Secretary of State for Energy. In accordance with Mr Benn's views the group will probably recommend that honours should be awarded only for acts of gallantry or examples of conspicuous merit.

It is also Mr Benn more amusing observer contemporary social scene his public life. He has been a member of the honours since recent years. As Secretary of State for Industry he had a battle royal permanent secretary equally strong mind Antony Part, over agreements and the Bill.

Later Sir Antony's v distinction has been his promotion to GC day he was due to Buckingham Palace to it, Mr Benn noticed his trousers and tail coat, usual form of dress office.

On being told the res such attire, Mr Benn ex great pleasure for Sir and asked, as a keen photographer, if he might a permanent record occasion. Sir Antony, shyly, agreed and was c for ever, surrounded by embarrassed members private office staff, star of the scarlet National of Mineworkers' banner. Mr Benn carries around department to departmen

For Mr Benn, once State for Energy. In accordance with Mr Benn's views the group will probably recommend that honours should be awarded only for acts of gallantry or examples of conspicuous merit.

Tomorrow: How the

Smokers 'costing NHS £2m a week'

Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, said yesterday that the National Health Service would be saved about £2m a week if people gave up smoking.

Speaking in Newcastle upon Tyne at the close of a three-day tour of northern hospitals, he referred to the resources devoted by the health service to the treatment of cancer, heart disease and chronic bronchitis caused by smoking.

"I should think that £100m could be saved a year at current prices, and that is quite apart from the misery caused," he said.

But the minister said he was opposed to a ban on smoking. "I think it is a matter of persuading smokers that they have to be responsible for their own health."

National Union of Mineworkers

A report in January of an interview with Mr John Goss, director of the National Association for Freedom, stated that the National Union of Mineworkers faced allegations of ballot-rigging in pending litigation and that another "highly important and relevant" case concerned picketing. In fact, no allegations of ballot-rigging are pending against the NUM, nor is it involved in the picketing case. We apologise for the inaccuracy.

'Squabbling' over EEC deplored in call to Scottish Liberals

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

Scottish Liberals will be asked to endorse a resolution critical of the way membership of the EEC has been handled by the party holds its annual conference at Ayr on June 16-18.

Submitted by the executive, the resolution deplores the manner in which the debate on Europe since the referendum has been allowed to degenerate into an occasional squabble over trivialities.

Recognising that the most fundamental, far-sighted and intrinsic components of the European ideal are still far from achieved, or even unachieved, the resolution deprecates the half-hearted defensiveness and consistent silence of pro-European campaigners, including many members of the Liberal movement, and many

previously vociferous Liberals. Conference notes that the anti-EEC lobby has been far more active in the interim, and has succeeded in portraying the most insignificant and minor market fluctuations as a fault exclusively of the Community.

The resolution urges the party in the coming year to regenerate its campaign on Europe. The most fundamental points, it says, are: direct elections to the European Parliament; proportional representation; accelerated transfer of power from other EEC institutions to the parliament; emphasis on the political aims of the European ideal as well as the economic aims, some of which are now achieved.

In urging a new attitude towards Europe, the resolution will be asked to support a concentrated campaign publicizing

the advantages of British membership. They should also try to persuade other pro-European organizations to do likewise.

It calls on the parliamentary party to ensure that the Government's commitment to hold direct elections by June, 1978, is honoured, and that the elections are conducted by proportional representation with Scotland as a single constituency.

The conference will debate a resolution rejecting the Bullock Report, another calling for reform of Scottish local government, including the dismantling of regional councils within five years; and a proposal for a written constitution for the United Kingdom, to be drawn up by the Government and guaranteed by individual rights.

Party accused of sacrificing beliefs

A shadow minister last night accused the Liberals of sacrificing their beliefs over direct elections to Europe.

Mr Norman Lamont, spokesman on industry, told a meeting in his constituency of Kingston upon Thames that the Liberals were prepared to jeopardize the prospect of European elections "for the dim and remote hope of some electoral advantage."

He said he was referring to the Government's policy statement by Mr Steel, the

Liberal leader, on the Government's decision to allow a free vote on the principle of direct elections.

Mr Steel had declared: "What the Government do in the matter of free votes, elections or agreements to differ is entirely a question for them; we must be patient and understand their dilemma."

Mr Lamont commented: "If the Liberals had any serious pretensions to a constructive influence on Government policy, they would have insisted from

the start that all ministers would have to support the Government's declared policy."

He said there was a time when the Liberals claimed to be the pioneers of a united Europe. "Now, apparently, Europe is a secondary issue. If direct elections did not take place the blame would rest with the Liberal Party, who will have sacrificed their own long-held beliefs for the futile hope of narrow party advantage."

Increasing efficiency of uranium resources

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

The inquiry into the Windscale reprocessing plant proposal goes far wider than the issues of proliferation of weapon material and risk to the public from long-lived radioactive waste.

Nuclear fuel processed at Windscale or anywhere else (and experimental or pilot plants are being built in West Germany, Japan, India, Italy, Spain, Yugoslavia, Argentina, Taiwan, Brazil and Pakistan) will extract the plutonium to power the next generation of fast-breeder reactors which have been developed to any extent by Britain, France, Russia and West Germany.

But plutonium is suitable for other existing reactors. Hence the decision over reprocessing has very important technical-economic implications for nuclear energy. The extent of those ramifications is seen by tracing the short history of commercial nuclear power, which has yet to reach its silver jubilee.

Existing power stations use

natural uranium metal fuel such as the Magnox or workhorse of the United Kingdom's first programme; natural uranium oxide fuel as in the Canadian Candu; or slightly enriched uranium oxide of the American light-water reactors (they form more than nine tenths of atomic power stations installed and under construction) and the British advanced gas-cooled reactors just coming into service.

Reactors using oxide fuel can be adapted to take a mixture of uranium oxide and plutonium to create a power station capable of yielding far more energy a tonne of fuel. The stations using oxide fuel already have that advantage over the first Magnox designs, with increases in energy available as much as 10 times higher.

A jump of similar proportions is calculated yet again for moving on to a new generation of fast-breeder reactors. In the fast-breeder the fuel mixture of uranium and plutonium-239 can contain

as much as 20 per cent of plutonium; whereas the modified thermal reactors would take only 2 to 3 per cent of plutonium oxide in their fuel.

It is the exercise of those options to which the experts refer when they begin discussions on "fuel cycles". In their terms, a complete or closed nuclear fuel cycle embraces enrichment and reprocessing, so that "unburnt" uranium and the newly created plutonium can be reused, or "recycled".

The arguments for reprocessing are about increasing the efficiency of using the finite resources of uranium in the world. Countries like Britain, Germany and Japan have no appreciable known deposits of uranium. France has a small amount of indigenous material. Thus those countries differ from the United States and Canada in their attitude to the need for reprocessing.

The case for a cycle using plutonium rests on conservation of resources. In principle a country importing enriched material and returning irra-

diated fuel for reprocessing cannot develop weapons. Even a plutonium cycle can be accommodated with light-water reactors, provided the material is imported as a fuel of mixed oxides.

There seems an almost endless combination of ways to play with the fuel cycle. One that is almost certain to figure largely in Windscale involves thorium. What is more, thorium can be used in a breeding cycle so that new fuel can be manufactured during the operation of a reactor.

In a system starting with slightly enriched uranium and thorium, the thorium can be turned into uranium-233. That is comparable to the fast-breeder reactor, which converts fertile uranium-238 into plutonium-239.

It is this alternative breeding cycle that the Americans are examining as a replacement for the plutonium breeder. The idea forms a centerpiece of President Carter's policy on a nuclear programme that avoids proliferation issues.

Concluded

Nuclear study has bearing on Windscale project

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington

The United States and Japan have agreed to make a joint study of the proposed pilot nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at Tokai Mura, outside Tokyo, to which President Carter has raised objections.

A joint statement issued on Tuesday emphasized the urgency of the study, further confirmed the need to find supposed alternatives. Officials in Washington believe that the decision to investigate will be of moment in determining how President Carter's controversial global nuclear policy might be modified by practical considerations.

The point at issue is that the spent or irradiated fuel the Japanese wish to reprocess is supplied by the Americans. That fuel-origin, although not the Japanese plan as such, directly affects the Windscale expansion proposal in America, and the contract Britain has for reprocessing Japanese irradiated fuel of American origin.

The United States insists on

giving case-by-case approval for such reprocessing. Obviously that would suit Britain.

Making a large investment to expand Windscale only to find one contract might be approved, another rejected, would be disastrous, not to say uneconomic.

Mr Carter's objection to reprocessing, in so far as it increases the risk of a spread of nuclear weapons, has been officials in Washington say they feel more confident, after the London summit, that the American policy may turn out to be less damaging to allied interests than at first feared. The differing energy needs of the industrial countries seem to be better understood.

Britain already performs reprocessing, among others, for the fuel supplied to the original Magnox reactor at Tokai Mura in the 1960s. However, the fuel for the other Japanese-American light-water reactors is American-supplied and subject to American consent.

Under the joint study, American experts will visit Japan in the middle of June.

Father fights for full publication of report

The father of a former schoolteacher who suffered irreparable brain damage during an anaesthetic accident at Westminster Hospital, London, said yesterday that he would fight for the full findings of an inquiry into the accident to be published.

Mr John Shewan had just heard that only a summary of the inquiry's findings would be made available to him, despite the fact that he has transcripts of all the evidence.

Only the Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster Area Health Authority, which has already received the report, will see the full 80-page version. "I intend to fight as hard as I can for full publication," Mr Shewan said. "This endless cloak of secrecy is a bit off the mark."

His daughter, Elizabeth, aged 23, suffered brain damage when the anaesthetic nitrous oxide was given instead of oxygen during an operation in February, 1975. "She spent three months in a coma and for a while was unable to walk. Her father

described her condition as absolutely disastrous. "She is able to walk but she is totally blind, has no memory, and has lost all her womanhood," he said yesterday.

She was now back in Westminster Hospital, where she was not being treated but "just being cared for". The health authority said that when the inquiry was set up under Mr Gerald Kidner he decided to hold the hearing in private. His approach of releasing only summaries, and giving the full text solely to the health authority, followed draft guidance on procedure issued last year by the Department of Health.

The health authority has already admitted liability for the accident, although no figure for compensation has yet been agreed.

Osprey hatched

An osprey hatched on Jubilee Day at the Loch Garten eyrie on Speyside is being fed by the parent birds, the Royal Society for the protection of Birds said yesterday.

Policeman on theft charge

A policeman was in custody for 24 hours special sitting of magistrates yesterday being accused of theft.

Police Constable Robert, aged 32, who is from Humberford, was charged with stealing nine gallons of petrol from a Rev. Wm. Rector's car with entering the Rector's car with intent to

Geriatric patient flees hospital

Geriatric patients were out of two wards at General Hospital, Humberford, broke out yesterday one was injured.

The fire started in a cupped ward, which was redecorated, adjoining atric wards.

Close look for the Prince

The Prince of Wales is working at Westminster on July 1. He is to climb at least 66 ft to work on towers which will be erected by Mr Bart Wheeler, the mason.

The Prince is presiding over the work at Westminster. A £1m appeal was last year to save the from further deterioration



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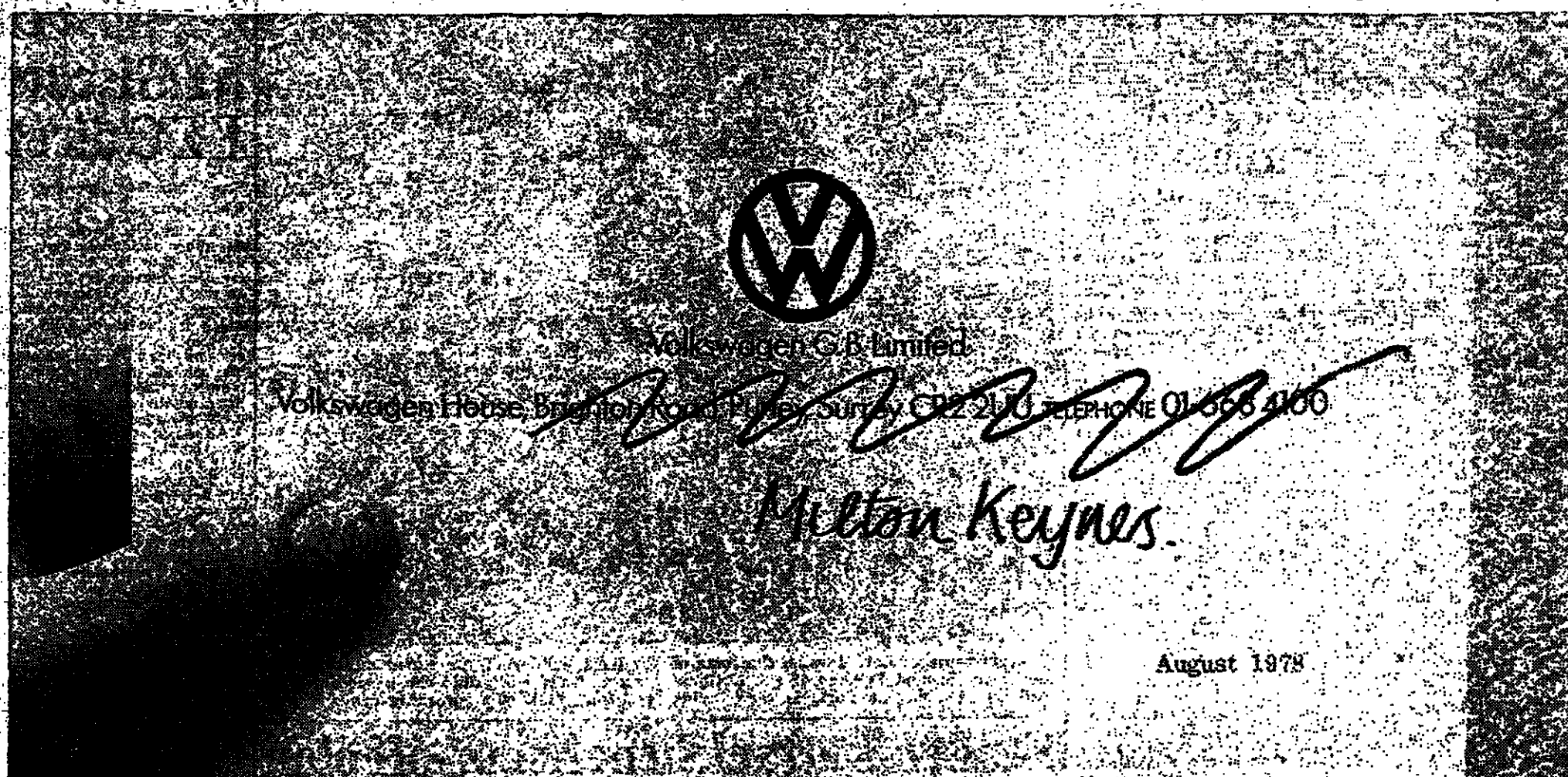
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August 1978

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Of course, our change of address won't change our cars.

But as far as our after sales servicing is concerned, we believe it's very much a move in the right direction.

HOME NEWS

American-style tactics boost Fianna Fail election hopes

From Christopher Walker
Dublin

With only a week until polling day, the Irish general election has turned into a much closer and more uncertain contest than that expected by many members of the ruling coalition who had hoped to secure an easy victory.

Much of the credit for the revival of the fortunes of the opposition Fianna Fail party must go to its leader, Mr Jack Lynch, who has covered more than four thousand miles in his election tour.

The undoubted appeal of Mr Lynch, a former Prime Minister, to the voters has been backed by a well-organized American-style campaign. Local polls indicate that it has been more successful in promulgating the Fianna Fail message than the staid efforts of the Fine Gael/Labour coalition.

Fianna Fail has made great use of a new pop song, sung by one of the country's best-known performers and aimed at the 440,000 young people voting for the first time. Called "Your kind of country", its unbuttoned lyrics are to be heard at many election meetings.

It was recognized from the outset that Fianna Fail, the more republican grouping, would be facing a built-in disadvantage because of the Government's skilful redrawing of constituency boundaries four years ago.

Capitalizing on the country's poor economic record, particularly the large numbers out of work and the 16 per cent inflation rate, Fianna Fail is now considered to have made up much of the initial ground, although it remains the less favoured party.

Much of the argument of the coalition has been aimed at Fianna Fail's too generous election manifesto, which one leading member dubbed "the promise factory". But among ordinary voters, the televised disputes over haffing and off-fluctuating economic statistics

have as yet had little influence.

The coalition has repeatedly tried to broaden the debate into the security field. The intentions of a Fianna Fail government towards both the IRA and continuing Anglo-Irish security cooperation are regarded by many politicians as highly suspect.

Earlier this week, Mr Cosgrave, the Prime Minister, joined ministers in raising the spectre of the 1970 arms trial and the fact that Mr Charles Haughey, a former Minister for Finance, has been restored to a prominent position on the opposition front bench since his acquittal.

The speech came after attacks on Mr Haughey by Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien, Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, and by Mr John Kelly, the new Attorney General. Unluckily for coalition supporters, Mr Cosgrave's speech lost much of its potential impact because it was read by his son, who is 21, the week before a threat virus has kept Mr Cosgrave off the campaign trail for three days.

The good showing of Fianna Fail so far will not please the British Government, which is known to prefer a coalition victory and a continuance in office of Mr Cosgrave, renowned for his stern attitude on law-and-order matters.

Little credence is being placed by outsiders on opinion polls, which are still in their infancy as far as Irish politics are concerned. One published last week by *The Irish Times* rated Mr Haughey as the politician whom most people would least like to lead the Fianna Fail party. In the next question, voters were asked whom they would like to see lead Fianna Fail if Mr Jack Lynch had to step down. To the surprise of commentators, Mr Haughey also succeeded in topping this section with 34 per cent of the replies.

Leading article, page 15

Union chief attacks court ruling

By Our Labour Staff

A trade union leader declared yesterday that a recent decision by Mr Justice Kilner Brown to direct the certification officer to issue a certificate of independence to Hawker Siddeley Dynamics' Harfield employees' association "confirms that trade unions cannot rely on judges or the legal system to defend their rights".

Mr Kenneth Gill, general secretary of the Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, condemned the ruling as an attack on the unions and the nationalized aerospace industry.

"This decision can contribute nothing to the orderly development of industrial relations in the industry. Quite clearly what we require is fewer, not more, unions within the aerospace industry," Mr Gill said.

The TUC and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions had made it "quite clear" to the board of British Aerospace that no additional union should be recognized, he said.

Polio cases confirmed

A girl aged six and a boy of three months, both of whom live at Stockport, Greater Manchester, have poliomyelitis, it was confirmed yesterday. Neither has been vaccinated, and the cases are not thought to be connected.

£30,000 for thinking to a good purpose

By Jacob Eccleston

The Cognitive Research Trust of Cambridge has been given £30,000 to study thinking. It is a serious matter, thinking, and a lot of very important people are going to be doing a lot of it. Some of them began over dinner at the Athenaeum recently.

Anyone feeling that Britain in 1977 has had quite enough of the legacy of Descartes would, surprisingly, be on the right track. Dr Edward de Bono, director of the trust, is not interested in any old thinkers but those whose mental processes have some practical beneficial effect.

Since he practises what he preaches in his various books on lateral thinking, Dr de Bono went to the people he knew were good at combining thinking with getting things done. Over dinner at the Athenaeum, which he tape recorded for later analysis, he got such people as Lord Mountbatten of Burma, Sir Ove Arup, Sir Monty Finiston, FRS, and Professor Sir Alfred Ayer to think aloud.

The idea was to find out if they thought that thinking was a legitimate field for study and whether they had any personal dos and don'ts. In a study of this sort, Dr de Bono said yesterday, it is sometimes easier to find solutions than it is to ask the right questions.

Later phases of the three-year feasibility study will involve children and will inquire whether greater opportunities can be given to potentially effective thinkers who may, under our present academic system, be regarded as failures. The money for the research has come from Mr Minetti Comino, who made a fortune from the design and manufacture of Dexon shelving. Like Dr de Bono, Mr Comino feels strongly that schools and universities in this country are not helping young people to think creatively or to think out what the long-range consequences of short-range solutions will be.

Having said his business, Mr Comino has set up a foundation to fund research projects. Dr de Bono, although an academic himself, is aware that he is in unfashionable territory. He pointed out that not a single British university has a chair for the investigation of cognitive skills.

Finding out why some people are more successful thinkers active, as opposed to contemplative—has its difficulties. Dr de Bono said, since active thinkers tend to keep their thoughts locked up. There is also the difficulty attached to the conventional image of the thinker. For many people the man of action is the antithesis of the thinker.

Both Dr de Bono and Mr Comino believe that finding out why some people are better than others at thinking creatively could lead to changes in Britain's educational system and economic and social policies. Dr de Bono is starting by harnessing the experience of good practical thinkers.

£29,608 paid for paintings

A sale of British and European paintings realized a total of £29,608 at Sotheby's in Bond Street yesterday. A painting, attributed to the English School, of "The Carlisle, the Liverpool and London Coach", fetched £850, and was bought by an anonymous private collector.

A Belgian dealer bought a set of three oils on panel of "The Kiss" by R. Stone, for £660. "A ship in distress", bearing the signature of Maestri, was bought by a Dutch dealer for £380.



Museum project: Lord Downe, chairman of the newly formed Friends of the National Railway Museum, at York, is seen beside

Students attack benefit cut-off plan

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The Government's proposals to stop students drawing unemployment benefit during short vacations would cause severe hardship to at least nine thousand mature students who have already sacrificed a better income by giving up jobs to return to full-time education, and would breach the principle of national insurance, which pays benefits in return for contributions according to the National Union of Students.

Those are the main points in a detailed memorandum prepared by the union for the National Insurance Advisory Committee, which is considering draft regulations on the issue. The NUS submission points out that the present Secretary of State for Education and Science is on record as opposing any breach of the principle of national insurance. During the committee stage of the Conservative Social Security Act 1971, Mrs Williams opposed measures to stop occupational pensioners drawing unemployment

benefit because it was a "state of entitlement".

The union uses a survey by the department to show that students are willing to work in vacations. The survey, published last October, showed that in the previous academic year 92 per cent of students' vacation incomes came from work, 1 per cent from grants, and 7 per cent from supplementary benefit and unemployment benefit combined.

But the willingness of students to work in vacations is being thwarted by the general economic climate the NUS says. "The Board Office employed 100,000 students at Christmas 1974, but half that number the following year. Last Christmas it had dwindled to 'very few'."

The Government's arguments are that students can qualify for unemployment benefit in eight weeks between leaving school and going to university, if they take jobs paying £4 a week or more. In the NUS view the people mainly affected by the draft regulations will be mature students and those who worked for

some years before going to university. If the regulations are introduced such students would lose the right to unemployment benefit during the summer vacation as well, the NUS argues.

The memorandum describes as "paltry" the expected saving of £2.1m from preventing students from claiming unemployment benefit during short vacations, particularly in view of the large surpluses expected in the national insurance fund. Last November the Government Actuary estimated the likely surplus for 1976-77 at £932m and for 1977-78 at £888m.

The National Insurance Advisory Committee is expected to report soon to Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, on the draft regulations. Mr Ennals will then present the new regulations to Parliament for approval. So far no government has managed to pass through Parliament regulations that breach the fundamental principle of national insurance benefits paid in return for contributions.

Mr Mason gets support of Mr Neave

Continued from page 1

membership of an illegal organization has been doubled from five to 10 years.

The maximum penalty under the Explosive Substances Act has been increased from 20 years to life imprisonment. Since the SAS was first publicly sent to Ulster, early in 1976, the Government has been impressed by the success it has had in keeping down the level of IRA activity in the border territory of south Armagh. Later its role was widened to cover the whole of the province, and much emphasis has been placed on its power as a deterrent.

It is thought that about 150 SAS men are now operating regularly in Ulster, although the figure has deliberately never been publicly confirmed by the authorities, who rely heavily on the psychological impact of the secrecy of undercover work.

A man was shot dead in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, yesterday. The victim, whose name has not been disclosed, is believed to have been a former member of the UDR in his late thirties. He had entered his car to go home shortly after 5 pm when two gunmen opened fire.

Our Political Correspondent writes: Mr Airey Neave, opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said that almost every measure announced by Mr Mason had been mentioned in speeches made by Conservative spokesmen during the past three years.

"I particularly welcome the increase in the maximum penalty to life imprisonment under the Explosive Substances Act to catch the managers of bomb factories," Mr Neave said. "For many months, he said, the Conservative Party had been pressing for an increase in SAS type activities by the Army and he was therefore delighted that more attention was now being paid to specialist operations."

Lord Donaldson foresees hard times for artists

By a Staff Reporter

Young people who are committed to the arts were warned yesterday that the odds are against achieving a successful professional life in the arts for all but the "most highly talented".

Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge, Minister of State in the Department of Education and Science, who has responsibility for the arts, said young people in the arts had to be realistic, as government support for the arts was not likely to grow in real terms in the immediate future.

Although everything was being done to encourage private sponsorship, the arts at best faced a period of stable activity, an overmaned range of artistic

enterprises and a constant input of young, highly qualified and ambitious students.

Lord Donaldson said: "This must be a situation which no one can contemplate without unease, but it should be met by realism from the start."

He said already most actors holding Equity cards were "resting" and it was extremely difficult to even a very talented and highly trained musician to find a place in an established orchestra. Young people had to be prepared for that when they left their colleges.

Lord Donaldson was speaking at a conference on the management and organization of arts and music studies in further education at Coombe Lodge Staff College, near Bristol.

Wiring colour codes still to be explained

Because many people are still unfamiliar with the colour code in electrical wiring, government regulations published yesterday extend indefinitely the requirement that all domestic electrical appliances with a three-core flex should be labelled with an explanation.

The new colours for flexes were introduced in 1969. They are green-and-yellow for the earth wire, brown for the live wire, and blue for the neutral wire. They replaced green, red and black respectively. The labelling requirements were to have lapsed on July 1, but Mr Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, decided that they should stay in force indefinitely, because he has been advised that many people are likely to wire up plugs incorrectly and dangerously if they have no explanation of the code.

The Electrical Appliances (Colour Code) (Amendment) Regulations 1977, SI 1977 No 931 (available from Stationery Office, 10s).

Population target for new towns 'too optimistic'

Reduced population targets downed up months for the expansion of Northampton and Milton Keynes are still too optimistic, according to Mr Wilfred Myron, chairman of Essex Midlands Planning Council. He says the "jobs needed to support the forecast growth are unlikely to become available because of the industrial recession combined with the latest policies for industrial areas adopted by the Government and the Greater London Council."

In a letter of advice to Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, the council proposes a more limited rate of growth for the two new towns and to ensure that they do not expand at the expense of other areas of Northamptonshire.

Mr Myron said: "We believe the proposed population target for Northampton of 180,000 by 1990 is too high and the target of induced growth to 173,000 by 1982 quite impracticable."

Lord Thomson puts faith in technology

By a Staff Reporter

Saving *The Times*, which has so far cost his family more than £10m, and securing it for the predictable future "is reachable and achievable," Lord Thomson of Fleet, chairman of the Thomson Organisation, said last night. But he made it clear that the future of the newspaper depends on the introduction of new technology.

Lord Thomson, whose father died last year, said that by saving the newspaper he meant putting it on "solid economic feet".

He said: "We are prepared to go through with our commitment and we are going to continue to go through with that commitment to supply funds which are necessary to support *The Times* and to make it viable."

"But that depends on the cooperation of the staff and all those connected with *The Times*. I am going right into technology because that is what it is all leading up to at this

precise moment. We have to put the new technology into *The Times*. It has got to happen and I am convinced that it will happen."

Lord Thomson interviewed on BBC television, continued: "There is going to have to be some negotiations, of course, and there is certainly going to have to be fair treatment of the staff."

"At the end of the day if everybody does his or her share, including my family, I assure you we will end up with a viable *Times* and something will be saved that I think is worth saving."

"If at the end of the day it does not happen, then there is plenty of worry, because from that point on I would honestly feel that my family had been relieved of its moral obligation to sustain *The Times*."

Asked why his family should go on supporting the newspaper, Lord Thomson said his father had thought it was a special situation, economically and

financially, and that *The Times* was "a special newspaper".

His father had not wanted *The Times* to be a burden to the organization's shareholders. Net losses were about £10m up to the end of last year, far more than his father thought the family would have to bear.

He added: "We want to stop *The Times* being a burden on my family or the Thomson Organisation. When that happens I think we will put it back into the Thomson Organisation."

In the interview, with Angela Ripston, Lord Thomson, who is a Canadian citizen, explained that he had not yet taken his seat in the House of Lords, said his father had asked him to assume the title and he could not refuse.

"But I did not make a promise that I would take up my seat and I did not make a promise that I would not be Ken Thomson in Canada and the United States. Happily I am succeeding in leading a sort of double life."

WEST EUROPE

Gaullist challenge to M Giscard on EEC direct elections

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, June 8

The Gaullists in the National Assembly decided last night to demand that the French Government postpone the debate on the Bill for direct elections to the European Parliament, which is due to be held next Tuesday.

The Gaullists' decision has worsened relations between the parties in the government majority at a time when a lull was perceptible in their disputes.

Although M Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, went out of his way to emphasize that he had no intention of provoking a crisis in the EEC or of causing difficulties to the Government, the decision is another direct challenge to President Giscard d'Estaing on an issue to which he personally attaches great importance and in which he feels the prestige of France is at stake.

The Gaullists' motives and the political consequences of their decision are difficult to assess at this stage. But there seems no doubt that as the debate drew near, their misgivings about direct elections have become more acute.

The Gaullists simply do not credit President Giscard d'Estaing with the ability or the determination to open up effectively possible future encroachments on French national sovereignty. This has strengthened the influence of the diehards.

They have turned out to be more accurate than was expected. To preserve the unity of the party, threatened by the revolt of some 30 to 40 of its members over the ratification issue, the party leadership had originally thought of tabling an amendment incorporating into the Bill additional guarantees against an extension of the European Parliament's powers. But the President of the Assembly decided that its rules

and precedents made amendment unacceptable. A way out for the Gaullists, who to prove adjustment of the die without the odium of a government crisis, issue which is not a one for public opinion.

Undoubtedly, M Chirac's colleagues also have back of their minds a sense of satisfaction at the prospect of a lull in the government majority at a time when a lull was perceptible in their disputes.

If feuding has died between the three government parties and their head are moving towards an agreement for the parliamentary elections, personal animosities seem as ever.

For example, during official visit by Mr R. the Soviet Communist leader, later this month was planned on M Chirac's visit to Paris. This has been cancelled with being used as an excuse. The Government is to let European elections Bill way to the Gaullists' for postponement, which involve loss of face, or cease regardless. The motion for postponement was rejected by a narrow margin, even the Communists to support it.

If the Government makes the Bill a matter of confidence, it will be carried out vote. A motion of censure is tabled again as M Chirac has excluded possibility of causing on the issue, by voting left, this can be excluded.

New Basque campaign for amnesty

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, June 8

The second "amnesty week" got under way in the Basque region of northern Spain today with home rulers stopping people in the streets and seeking signatures for a protest about French treatment of Basque exiles.

The campaign for an amnesty for political prisoners gave every indication of being far less bloody than the one last month, when five people died in a series of clashes.

The Government has authorized publication of the daily newspaper *Deia*, backed by the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) and the first issue appeared today with the headline: "Release the political prisoners."

In fact, the release of all but one of the remaining Basque prisoners, about 16 in all, was expected today or tomorrow, according to sources close to the Government in Madrid.

There was still no word of the fate of the president of the Spanish affiliate of Babcock and Wilcox, Señor Javier de Ybarra, aged 63, who was kidnapped from his home near Bilbao 13 days ago by a separatist organization ETA.

Madrid, June 8.—The armed forces and police went on partial alert today after a mysterious wave of bombings a week before. All military and police leave was cancelled.—Reuter.

Unesco urged to defend freedom of speech

Oso, June 8.—The International Press Institute (IPI) ended its annual assembly here today with resolutions expressing grave concern at harassment of the press in many countries and calling on the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) to defend freedom of speech. Delegates at the three-day conference accused Unesco of repressive media policies.

The main resolution, adopted unanimously, called on the IPI's 63 national committees to urge their governments to ensure that Unesco's redrafted declaration on the mass media and other policy statements "adhere to Unesco's own constitutional commitment to the free flow of information."

The original Unesco declaration, debated at Unesco's general conference in Nairobi last November and backed by the Soviet Union, said Gov should be responsible mass media in their IPI members said allow authoritarianism to the press in Unesco.

The resolution's before formulating which related to the was essential for Unesco professional advice operation.

The assembly "grave concern at the of the press, radio, television, and other mass media, particularly in America, Asia and Africa. It said many journalists have been intimidated or persecuted and many newspapers have been published because of their action in such a Reuter.

EEC fishing team tries coax Iceland with aid

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, June 8

Mr Gundelach, the EEC Commissioner for Agriculture and Fisheries, flew to Reykjavik today where he was due to be joined by Mr Judd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, in a new attempt to break the EEC-Icelandic deadlock over fishing rights for British trawlers.

A decision to send an EEC delegation to Iceland was taken by foreign ministers as long ago as April 5, but the visit took longer than expected to arrange. Commission sources say that the EEC delegation—Mr Judd is going to Reykjavik as the representative of the Council of Ministers—will want to discuss the fishing problem in the context of Iceland's broader economic relationship with

munia, which rests on trade agreement.

Under this agree EEC imports substantial quantities of Icelandic fish. There is no restriction on suspension of the sources here insist. Community may offer lenders more financial help to them to divert economy and make reluctant to open up fishing grounds.

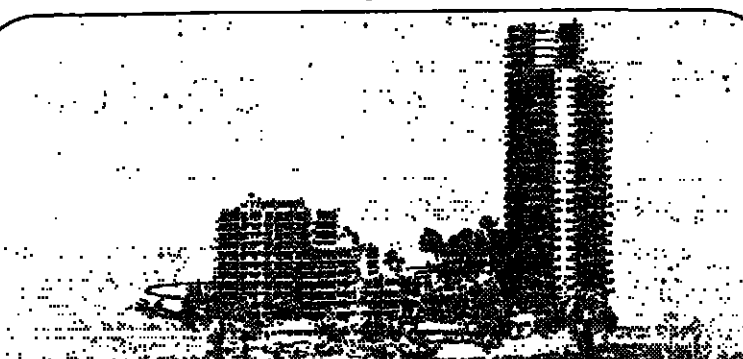
The nub of the matter while EEC catches have traditionally been the Icelanders have negotiated the Community's EEC thus has little leverage.

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WEST EUROPE

Italians puzzled over identities of negotiators who switched their secret votes on the abortion Bill

Mr. Nichols, June 8. An unexpected defeat in the Senate of the Bill leaves the law deeply divided about the next and the Christians are strangely above their victory. The Bill has called for a referendum. The Republicans are presenting the Bill again for debate in the Senate. This did not return the Senate to the debate on the Bill to be again for at least six months.

Iran plea for Kadar freedom

June 8.—President Jimmy Carter said Mr. János Kádár is visiting Hungary to discuss the differences between the two countries not block "the free flow of our experiences."

Bill that would be acceptable to as many studies of opinion as possible. They have done so in spirit of the misgivings of many of their own women supporters. They now find that their efforts have been defeated by a small group of uncommitted members of the day parties, some of whom took the vote of the day to destroy the Bill.

Refugees flocking from Mozambique need aid

From Our Correspondent, Geneva, June 8. Because of the "very serious human problem" of refugees from Mozambique, the Portuguese Red Cross is requiring increased emergency aid from the League of Red Cross Societies.

disbanded their leadership's policy of seeking agreement with the Christian Democrats. The first hypothesis would be surprising. The second, if true, would be not only astonishing but historic. There is no proof for either supposition. The Christian Democrats did, indeed, seem genuinely surprised at the outcome of the vote. Most of them had been unhappily resigned to a possible approval of the Bill, as on paper there was a majority of about 10 in favour. They would at least have been able to share the fairly general belief that the Radical Party's intention to have a referendum would have been stopped. Their experience with the earlier referendum, which they lost handily, remains a lesson for many of them.

Mr Carter's tax return given routine audit

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington, June 8. President Carter's income tax return for 1975, the year he made the transition from being Georgia governor to businessman, is being "audited" by the Internal Revenue Service. This was confirmed today by the White House spokesman.

Pig plan gives more to British producers

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels, June 8. A plan approved here today by the European Commission to help the EEC's pigmeat industry would give British producers an immediate 4.8 per cent price rise.

Syrian Foreign Minister begins Beirut talks

Beirut, June 8.—Mr. Abdel Halim Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister, arrived here today and immediately began talks with President Sarkis of Lebanon which are likely to cover preparations for a summit with President Assad of Syria, political sources said.

OVERSEAS

President cuts 'unending flow of arms' to Iran by barring \$4,000m jet fighter sale

From Bernard Weinraub, Washington. The United States Administration has decided against selling 250 advanced fighter aircraft to Iran, as part of President Carter's new policy of reducing conventional arms sales abroad.

According to Pentagon estimates, the modified F18, which was due for delivery to Iran in the 1980s, would have cost \$15.8m (about £9.2m) each, 250 would cost about £4,000m.

agreements for significant weapons. Moreover, Iran is not regarded to be in danger of attack from any of its neighbours. The arms policy states: "The United States will henceforth view arms transfers as an exceptional foreign policy instrument to be used only in instances where it can be clearly demonstrated that the transfer contributes to our national security interests."

Government officials said that the decision was also taken within a broad optical context. "You have to give a signal to Iran that they cannot just get anything they want," the official said. "They are a close ally, a good friend, but they can't be supplied with an unending flow of arms."

New round of Namibia talks begin

Cape Town, June 8.—The South African Government and five Western powers began fresh talks on Namibia (South-West Africa).

They also want full involvement in the independence formula for Swaziland, the Namibian nationalist organisation which the United Nations recognises as the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people.

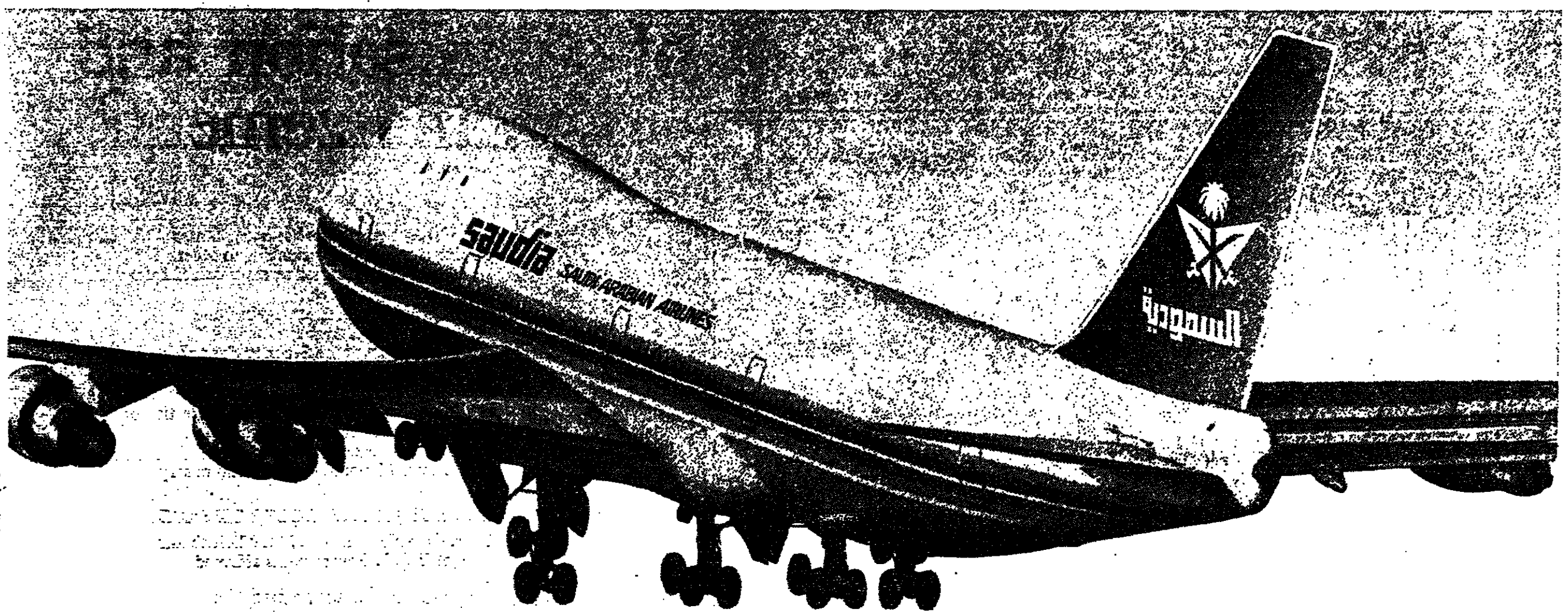
Mr. Jody Powell, the White House spokesman, said the audit was "apparently routine" and he added: "There are no allegations of discrepancies or wrongdoing."

Syrian Foreign Minister begins Beirut talks

Beirut, June 8.—Mr. Abdel Halim Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister, arrived here today and immediately began talks with President Sarkis of Lebanon which are likely to cover preparations for a summit with President Assad of Syria, political sources said.

Polish dissident writer freed after union plea

Warsaw, June 8.—Mr. Jan Jozef Lipski, a literary critic and one of six members of the dissident Polish Workers' Defence Committee arrested last month, was released today, a spokesman for the semi-official Interpress news agency said.



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Because so many people want to go to Riyadh direct, we are adding a new, all-Jumbo non-stop 747 service from Heathrow.* This exclusive new service plus our regular TriStar schedule, gives you a choice of 13 flights weekly to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (including flights to Jeddah and Dhahran). Our new schedule makes it much easier for you to plan your business schedule.

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COMMONWEALTH

Uganda announces Britons may not leave country and warns against rescue attempts

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, June 8.—Uganda today announced a ban on Britons leaving the country.

There are thought to be about 240 Britons in Uganda; many of them are missionaries while others are business and professional people. They have already been warned by the British Government they remain in Uganda at their own risk.

Uganda radio said today that General Mustafa Adria, the Vice-President, who is in charge of the country in President Amin's absence, had given the order that no Britons should leave. Security forces were instructed to ensure that they did not leave, and particularly to watch small border crossings which are not normally used by non-Africans.

The radio added that a decision on the future of the Britons would await the return of President Amin.

The radio also reported that Ugandan radar had detected a "British reconnaissance plane" approaching, but that it had turned away before crossing the border. If any such plane did enter Ugandan air space, it would be shot down, the radio said.

It was also announced that Ugandan security forces had seized a "portable British-made communications system" that had been "smuggled" into the

country. It would now be used by Uganda's security forces.

The radio warned that there could be no question of any attempt to rescue the Britons now in Uganda, as they are scattered all over the country.

A few days ago, President Amin, angered by the British Government's insistence that he should not attend the Commonwealth Conference, had threatened some unspecified action against Britain. It was then expected that the Britons now in Uganda might be barred from leaving.

Britons who remain in Uganda, however, are accustomed to tension and are unlikely to panic. There is no news of any restriction on their movement within Uganda, but in the present situation they would be unlikely to make any long journeys, and are more likely to remain quietly in their homes.

Our religious affairs correspondent writes: British missionary organizations with staff in Uganda decided some time ago to leave it to each missionary to decide whether to leave the country. Very few have done so and there have been no serious complaints by missionaries about their treatment reported to London, although the present situation is "causing anxiety" according to one church source.

The British church presence

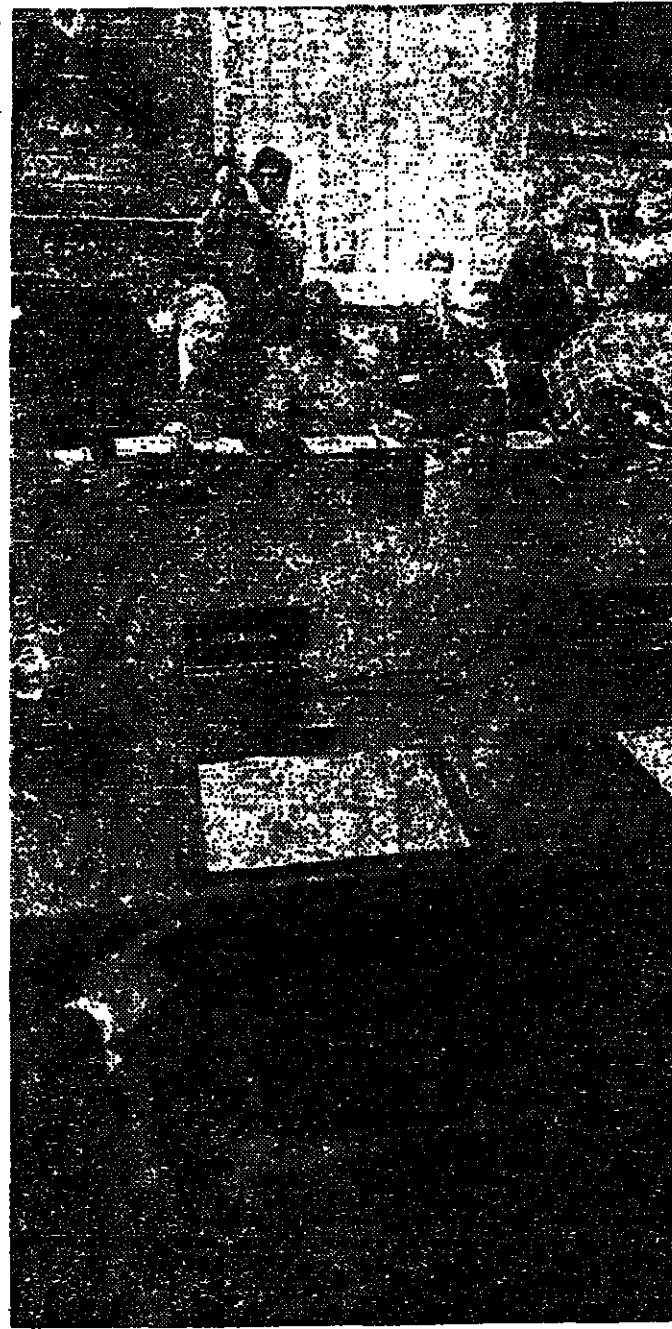
in Uganda appears to be divided about equally between the Church Missionary Society (Anglican) and Roman Catholic Missionary organizations, principally the Mill Hill Fathers and the Volunteer Missionary Movement, which sends young lay people to missionary areas.

One estimate was that the total British missionary population in Uganda was not much more than 70, including a few children of husband-and-wife teams sent by the Church Missionary Society. This number includes lay professional workers such as doctors, nurses and teachers.

Both churches have put the welfare of their missionaries in leaders, leaving it to them to advise the British on their safety.

Our Business Staff writes: The Foreign Office estimates there are about 100 Britons working for commercial organizations in Uganda. However, it admits that it is difficult to assess the precise total because not all are registered with the Foreign Office and of those who are, not all may be in the country at any given moment.

Among British companies with personnel thought to be in Uganda at present are banks such as Barclays, Standard and Grindlays, all of which have operating subsidiaries there, and trading companies such as Lonrho and Unilever.



The empty chair: President Amin's place at the Lancaster House conference table opposite Mr Callaghan remained unoccupied yesterday.

West Papua group seeks help

Dakar, June 8.—The self-styled Revolutionary Provisional Government of West Papua New Guinea, which is pledged to fight for the independence of the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya, has appealed for help to Commonwealth leaders meeting in London.

In a plea to Commonwealth countries, Mr Bernard Tenggahma, the group's Dakar-based "foreign affairs minister", asked for "moral and material assistance in our national liberation struggle".

The group's military wing attempted to disrupt the recent Indonesian general elections in Irian Jaya—formerly Dutch-ruled West New Guinea—and its guerrillas are being pursued by Indonesian troops.

The group has an information office here with its headquarters in Holland.—Reuters.

London summit to deal with sport boycott call

Nairobi, June 8.—African delegates attending the Commonwealth heads of government conference in London will support a decision of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to continue the sporting boycott of New Zealand, a senior Kenyan sports official said here today.

Mr Mamasheh Oisbe, the administrative secretary of Kenya's National Sports Council said that, if the conference could not solve the matter, our boycott of next year's Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, Canada, would be more severe than that of the last July's Montreal Olympics.

He told reporters that the London conference, which began today, "may be the last potential hope for an end to the boycott before the Edmonton games, and it appears to carry the weight to solve the issue".

The conference has on its agenda the African boycott of

New Zealand, a result of that country's sporting links with South Africa. An African Commonwealth nations participated in the Montreal Olympics.

Earlier this year, the OAU Ministerial Council passed a resolution urging member-countries to carry on with the sports boycott of New Zealand and any other country that allows sports exchanges with South Africa.

"If New Zealand delegates to the London conference can give an assurance that this will not be the trend any more, we shall waive the wholesale ban and concentrate it only on rugby. Should they not, the boycott will stay, and will be more severe in future—at the World Cup athletics meeting in Düsseldorf, West Germany, in September, and the Commonwealth Games next year—as many sympathizers of the cause against apartheid will join us," Mr Oisbe said.

Rhodesia drops power cut threat to Zambia

Salisbury, June 8.—Rhodesia today backed away from suggestions that it would cut Zambia off from the hydro-electric power of the Kariba dam in retaliation for military attacks. Mr Roger Hawkins, Minister of Combined Operations, said no such threat had been made or implied in a communiqué issued by him yesterday.

He said in an interview with the *Rhodesia Herald* that an inaccuracy in the statement had created the wrong impression. He apologized for saying that Zambia still drew a considerable proportion of its

power requirements from the Rhodesian side of the dam.

In his statement yesterday, Mr Hawkins accused Zambia of a "criminal act of aggression" in the rocket attack on the Rhodesian town of Kariba last Saturday.

Before the statement was issued, a Rhodesian Government official drew the attention of correspondents to the references to Zambia's dependence on the dam. If the power switches were thrown, he said, "all of Zambia's copper mines would be flooded in three days".

Conference notebook by Michael Leapman

Eavesdropping devices tune in to the great men's small talk

Excitement over whether President Amin will or will not turn up is becoming a cherished tradition of these Commonwealth conferences. This is the third time it has happened: four years ago, before the Ottawa conference, he asked the Queen to provide him with an escort of Scots Guards. She charitably refused.

The tradition is that, at the end of the excitement, he stays away, but I would not be foolish enough to predict with certainty that it will happen this time. There are even some who would welcome his attendance, while not denying that Britain is a cleaner and better place without him.

These could easily include members of the New Zealand delegation, who would welcome any diversion from the criticism they expect to receive about sporting links with South Africa. And they certainly include members of the press who, after the first couple of days of these conferences find it devilish hard to find anything exciting to write about.

The extent of press coverage of his arrival plans must encourage President Amin in his eccentricity. "Why should he come?" wondered one experienced reporter. "He has got the publicity he wanted, anyway. He throws a crumb and we all scramble for it."

This view was echoed by Mr Callaghan at the opening garden party for delegates and reporters. "Forget about Amin," he testily advised someone who asked about him.

"You are playing his game at the moment."

Persistent questioning on the topic must have confirmed the view Mr Callaghan expressed when sending his fellow leaders out of the conference room to attend the party. "Sonny Ramphal [Commonwealth Secretary-General] says it is to be a social meeting with the press. Personally, I've never known a social meeting with the press."

I was able to hear that through a remark of the Prime Minister's thanks to an excellent device known as an induction loop set. This was issued to enable reporters to listen to the opening ceremony, but it also plugged its into some of the informal chatter between delegates. I have always longed to be able to overhear.

Before the opening, Mr Callaghan was performing Wilsonian feats of memory, with President Kaunda of Zambia sitting next to him. He was recalling a meeting of the Rhodesia Society which they had both attended in Durban in 1957, along with Mr Harry Nkumbula, who used to be Mr Kaunda's rival Zambian leader.

"What happened to Harry Nkumbula?" Mr Callaghan wondered. "Is he still alive?" Mr Kaunda, less audible, indicated that he was, but was suffering from some nasty disability. "That is a great pity," said Mr Callaghan. "He is not the first one." There was still time to fill before the opening speech, which could not be made early because of television coverage. Mr Pierre Trudeau quipped that

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and Mr Callaghan in impenetrable joke ab

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eight-day street party.

Seychelles ready for counter-co

Victoria, Seychelles, June 8.—President Albert René, who was brought to power in a coup here last Sunday, said today that his Government would not be Marxist but would develop a form of socialism appropriate to Seychelles.

He told a press conference that Mr James Mancham, the ousted president, now in London, might be recruiting mercenaries. If a counter-coup were attempted involving outside interference, Mr René's Government would if necessary call in outside help of its own people, should go into training with the 500-man police force because of a possible counter-coup attempt.

His Government was now hoping for an early return to normal. But it had ordered that people should go into training with the 500-man police force because of a possible counter-coup attempt.

"We have certain information from London that Mr Mancham may be recruiting mercena-

government officials call "the coup of the 30 rifles". The man had about 300 men when they began their action against Mr Mancham.

Mr René said that, before the coup, he realized that members of his own political party were planning some move against Mr Mancham. He did not deny that some of them had trained in Tanzania but he did not know exactly what their plan was in advance.

His Government was now hoping for an early return to normal. But it had ordered that people should go into training with the 500-man police force because of a possible counter-coup attempt.

"We have certain information from London that Mr Mancham may be recruiting mercena-

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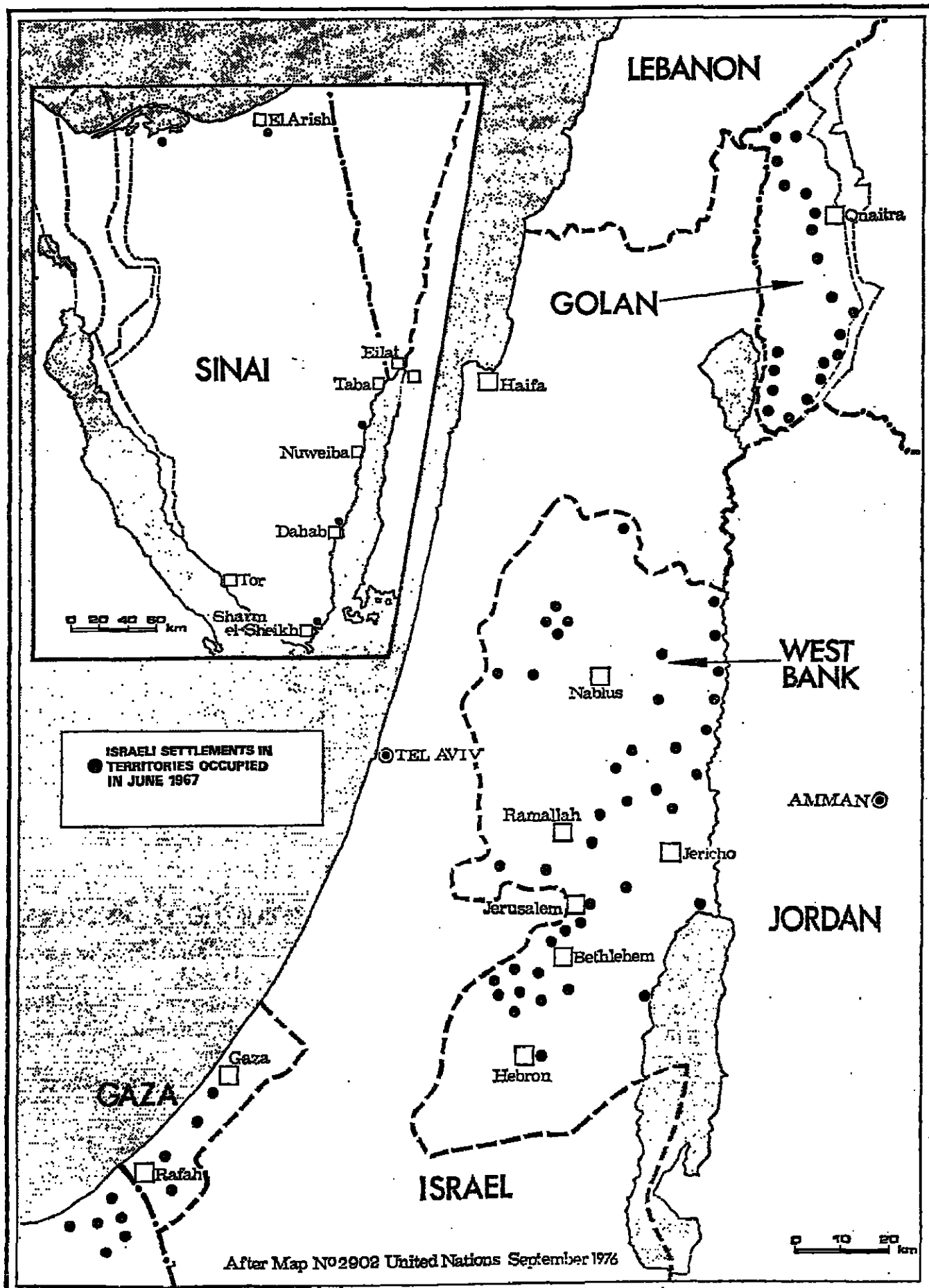
dismissed Mr Rasool

Commissioner and had

the British High Comm

Victoria of this.

Is this a map of peace, or of colonisation and aggrandizement?



- Every one of these settlements has been planted outside Israel on land belonging to others
- Every settlement is on occupied territory seized from Arabs by military force
- Every one is an act of aggression against one or other of Israel's Arab neighbours
- Every one is a defiance of the Security Council and the whole international community
- Every one is a violation of human rights and of the Geneva Convention for the protection of people living under enemy occupation
- Every one is a "signpost to destruction" — a sure omen of more bloodshed and misery

EVERY ONE IS AN OBSTACLE TO PEACE

At Brussels in November 1973 the British and other E.E.C. Governments affirmed

the need for Israel to end the territorial occupation which it has maintained since the conflict of 1967.

The sooner that happens, the better for Israel itself, for its Arab neighbours and for the peace of the world.

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NEW BOOKS

Independent nation

Scotland and Nationalism
Scottish Society and Politics, 1770-1977

By Christopher Harvie
(Allen & Unwin, £7.50)

Scotland and the Union
By David Daiches
(John Murray, £5.50)

Christopher Harvie's stimulating and original disquisition on the progress of nationalism in Scotland, more or less from William Wallace to William Wallace, must be handled with the greatest caution. There is no disputing the elegance of his argument, nor the breadth of his research and reading that lie behind it. Too often it is the conclusions that follow the

presentation of the evidence that bring one up short, including the final, nifty political prescriptions to meet a still-developing crisis. Like David Daiches's *Scotland and the Union*—though this is more a timely history than a tract for the times—it is a product of the nationalist fever of the mid-seventies.

References to recent events apart, neither book, one feels, would have been written quite like these 10 years ago: new ideas have grown up in abundance to obscure the wood. Both, especially Dr Harvie's, which fearlessly carries events past last February's guillotine motion, could look a trifle foolish only a few years hence.

No doubt it is difficult today to view Scottish history or the development of the Scottish nation without finding the origins of the present outbreak of political nationalism at every turn. The idea that the people of Britain have undergone any significant fusion, despite centuries of largely unbroken and

that the SNP was a minute lunatic fringe even in Scotland. Now Dr Harvie is constrained not only to record the "achievement" of such as the Lallans

evangelist, Hugh MacDermid, but to explain, as he does most plausibly, how the Union has managed to survive so long at all.

Until the 1830s, he puts it down to the fact that government from Westminster hardly impinged on the lives of Scotsmen or on the learned, political and commercial circles in Edinburgh who controlled them. Thereafter, until the Gladstonian political reforms which set the devolution ball rolling, imperial success rendered separatist thoughts irrelevant.

Still, for the philosopher, current phenomena demand historical cause. Dr Harvie

draws a useful distinction between the two Scottish nations (the "red" and the "black"): those who since the days of the Enlightenment have taken full advantage of the Union inside Scotland as well as outside, and presumably wish it to continue; and those who, through background or inclination, are of a narrower outlook, and are today opposing the assimilative process, seeking a Scottish identity, and finding expression through political nationalism.

Professor Daiches is less concerned with such differentiation—though his earnings that Union has made nostalgia the most characteristic (and an unhealthy) Scottish emotion presumably applies primarily to the "black" variety. Yet together the two authors stretch the thesis too far. Harvie makes the dubious claim that the Union troubles of 1707, not to speak of the Malt Tax and Porteous riots of the Twenties and Thirties, carried echoes of the ballads that celebrated the Wars of Independence 400 years earlier. Daiches, after these latter riots as anti-Union more than merely anti-government (much, I suspect, as some thinkers see most of the SNP vote today).

Thereafter—having curiously described the pre-1707 Court Party in Scotland as "representative"—the English Government insists on identifying Jacobinism with political nationalism. After the 1830s, he writes, Jacobinism "tended to be associated with anti-Union views" (but by whom?) and "after the Union was finally effected in 1707 this aspect of Jacobinism became ever more pronounced"; and later in the eighteenth century "events" were to associate Scottish nationalism "primarily with Jacobinism". These are not views, I think, which would be shared by all historians, and certainly not by the English Jacobites of the day.

What Dr Harvie has done and what Professor Daiches has to a lesser extent been tempted to do is to follow a thread that was never spun. The history of Scottish political nationalism, distinct from that of the Scottish nation or of Scottish politics, is no more a continuous theme than the history of pneumonia. Political nationalism, often, as now, in its ignominious, exclusive form—will erupt in any inclusive group of human beings given the right economic and social circumstances; but once erupted, it does not necessarily lead from the last, much though its political leaders may claim to be the torchbearers of true patriotism.

This criticism amounts to a caveat, though an important one, about two scholarly books which shed light on Scotland and the Scots at a time when it is needed, and which contain much insight along with the polemic. They are books to be read.

Adam Fergusson

Laurels for the enemy

The Life and Death of the Afrika Korps

By Ronald Lewin
(Batsford, £5.50)

Panzer Army Africa

By James Lucas
(Macdonald & Jane's, £6.95)

There is nothing new in these re-examinations of the much-chronicled North African war, but fresh approach lends an objectivity that would have been difficult, and perhaps ill-received, even 10 years ago. Ronald Lewin can now write fairly that the Afrika Korps was "closely knit together by the effects of German military training and discipline, and suffused with the classless spirit of National Socialism, containing neither units nor sub-units which held themselves apart because of their peacetime background or a divisive sense of class superiority."

Yet here he is rather hard, by comparison, on some British cavalry regiments especially. He could have considered that what he calls their "Baluchistan" tactics might have been more successful against the Cromwellian tactics of the Panzers if they had possessed mechanically reliable tanks (which the Crusaders and A13 Cruisers were generally not), capped ammunition, and tanks of a common top speed. "The speed of a cavalry charge is the speed of the slowest horse." Or tank. For nothing in these campaigns more resembled the traditional cavalry charge than the German avalanche of *Totensturmgewehr*, the *Blitzkrieg* of the Desert, on November 23rd, 1941, which left the dustbowl below the tomb of the prophet Sidi Rezegh a choked butcher's yard.

Perhaps one truth is that the British armour was good enough to play its part in the destruction of an Italian army 10 times the size of its Commonwealth opponents, but for a long time not good enough to outface the quantitatively inferior, armoured spearhead of what one English observer called "the best fighting team in the world", the Afrika Korps, with its integrated tank, inspired leadership, standard equipment, anti-infantry artillery cooperation, and superb sense of vehicle recovery. (However, emulation of Rommel's leadership from the front mentality may have been a grave handicap in the long run, bringing heavy casualties among irreplaceable senior officers.)

Reading these books, one senses anew that curious camaraderie which embraced those "naturalized" citizens of the sand, British and German—for fundamental to the contest was between the 8th Army and the Afrika Korps. Wavell's tiny force had torn the heart out of the Italians, who never recovered to possess much more than nuisance value, although the Afrika Division for one sustained the whole campaign doggedly, and fought gallantly to extinction in November 1942. And the Americans who came to North Africa late in the game, new boys, but no more so than the Germans had been—managed little beyond supplying the Panzers with lavish rations and equipment.

If war there had to be, this was the ideal stage, an arena of sand and rock, on which the gladiators fought, and died or survived, with virtually no homes or towns to be destroyed, no women and children to be maimed or killed. Two natural elements dominated all else: water and sand. Both make the radiator of a wrecked vehicle a holy Grail; and the all-pervading sand against which anything that gave any relief from its dull glare assumed an absorbing interest. As one soldier wrote, in the thick of it: "What did I see in the desert today? Anything new in the 'Blue'?" "I found a crevice in the rocks. Where a single violet grew. . . ."

Both these "biographies" deserve close attention, and complement each other admirably. Ronald Lewin's is the more adventurous in its deductions, while James Lucas's is the more methodical in its recapitulation of events. Both authors fought in North Africa, and one says what the other implies when he writes that "When all was over its [the Afrika Korps] famous sign, the palm tree, could have been fittingly surrounded by a wreath of laurels."

Laurence Cottle

Crime

Petrella at Q

By Michael Gilbert
(Hodder & Stoughton, £3.95)

This is Michael Gilbert's twenty-first crime book in a career that began in 1947. And though it is not one of his major offerings—it is in fact a series of loosely linked stories, some quite short, others much longer, featuring his Detective Inspector Petrella, that policeman poised cunningly between the unusual and the perfectly usual, who, Gilbert says, "is a quietly amusing fellow, was concerned in church" some 25 years ago—it is in many ways typical of a crime writer who



The truth about Hughes

Project Octavio
The Story of the Howard Hughes Hoax

By Clifford Irving and Richard Siskind
(Allison & Busby, £4.50)

The Hughes Papers
By Elaine Davenport and Paul Eddy
(Andre Deutsch, £4.95; Sphere, 75p)

The hoaxers who prepared Howard Hughes's "autobiography" by mimicking his speech patterns, inventing gossip, incorporating press clippings and secret files from *Life* magazine and diversifying the stories told by disgruntled former associates so that Hughes came out the hero, thought they would fool everyone by the sheer audacity of their lies. For the record, they did fool nearly everyone—except the hands writing analysts, lawyers and friends—right up until their confessions. But from the examples of their supposed dialogues with Hughes in *Project Octavio*, Clifford Irving and Richard Siskind, made their character believable by accentuating his pettiness, lacking his rough conversation with scandal and involving the names of the famous at every opportunity. They write: "Our basic cry in moments of indecision was always: 'Libel the dead'."

Elaine Davenport and Paul Eddy had the advantage in writing their book (suggested by Mark Hurwitz, a Californian lawyer) that Hughes himself died by the time they finished. They also had the benefit of Hughes's two and a half hour telephone interview denouncing Irving's fraudulent book. And, even more crucially, they had access to masses of documents and sworn testimony from court cases covering Hughes's last years, particularly concerning the deals and manipulations of secret time in Las Vegas as revealed through the papers of Robert Maheu, his disgraced "alter ego" and spokesman. Because the centre of their study is Hughes's wealth, not his manner of living, the appearance of such powerful political figures as Richard Nixon and Hubert Humphrey as recipients of Hughes's money appears for considerably more revealing reading than the fabricated gossip of Irving's book ever could.

As Irving tells the story, one of the few mistakes he made was to deny that Hughes was the speaker in the telephone interview. The mistake which revealed the hoax, however, was the use of a woman, Irving's wife, to deposit the cheques from McGraw-Hill, the publishers, in a Swiss account credited to H. R. Hughes.

Project Octavio, while com-

peiling reading, plumed like a novel straight through from the beginning when Irving read an article about the dispute in Las Vegas to the end when Irving, his wife and Siskind received prison sentences for their parts in the hoax, is unhelpfully loaded with apologies to the friends Irving abused and justifications for the sexual betrayals of his wife. In supposedly verbatim remarks, Irving is given to protesting, "I don't stab my friends in the back", shortly before he does.

As he is not apparently a man capable of great irony, Irving seems unable to recognize that his own notoriety made him as vulnerable to the prying of journalists as did Hughes's fame. Constantly he has Hughes fight off an imaginary homosexual advance from Ramon Navarro, or fabricate a claim that Robert Gross, the president of Lockheed, was a shoplifter, he complaining that the press claimed he had gambling debts and is bitter that an arrangement with the Swiss Government not to prosecute his wife was fouled when newspapers revealed the deal. Yet, when facing jail, he found a certain grandeur had rooted itself into the scheme, and I could still say a reckless and artistic splendour to the way we had carried it out.

Project Octavio's only visible value is the warning it should offer to the handwriting experts presently trying to determine which of Hughes's wills is legitimate. *The Hughes Papers* are a masterpiece of authoritative, revealing and engrossing, usefully indexed and central to any serious consideration of Hughes. It fails only when on the skimmest circumstances evidence it speculates; suggesting, for instance, that the Watergate burglary might be connected to a Hughes donation to Nixon.

Need Chaitin

William Shakespeare: a compact documentary life, by S. Schoenbaum (Clarendon Press, Oxford, £6.75). Professor Schoenbaum's magnificent large-format *Documentary Life of Shakespeare* was properly celebrated when it came out last year. Now, he publishes the text minus most of the marvelous illustrations. It still proves an absolute prerequisite for anyone for whom Shakespeare is a passion or even an interest. His book is a standing rebuke to all but the most insatiable of Shakespeare biographers: time and time again, by simply rehearsing what is known, or even "known" about the poet, he shows how closely examining the original sources, he throws a bright light on the subject. But this is not a dry book; the author has a light touch, and a splendid eye for telling incidental details. For this edition he provides, for instance, fascinating new peripheral material—a poisoning at New Place, and a thorough re-examination of the "second best bed" conundrum.

He seldom even needs a mystery to tug his reader through to the end, no whodunit to tease from start to finish. He does not even always put his hero, for whom he has built up our sympathies, at the centre of the action. But you read on, and appear to that ancient and simple need in us, the story. It is a need more widespread than might appear at first blush, and a need that is often neglected by imagination-mongers too busy with high-flying moral concepts.

The Secret Lovers, by Charles McCarty (Hutchinson £3.95). With this 1960 account of a manuscript smuggled out of Russia McCarty may be safely installed in the soviet-writers' Pantheon. Tradecraft plus humanity.

Star Trap, by Simon Brett (Collins, £3.95). Third case (Smash-hit musical) for actor-

Crystallizing powers

The Magus
A Revised Version
By John Fowles
(Corgi, £4.95)

Prospero Rules OK. Not only is an entirely new novel by John Fowles due to appear this autumn, but his decision to issue this substantially revised edition of *The Magus*, the long, intricate, Aegean-island, enchantment, first published in 1966—proves to be both a clever coup de theatre and an admirable example of conscientious craftsmanship.

With the appearance of *The French Lieutenant's Woman* eight years ago, Fowles established himself as a master of the novel, with a brilliant and unorthodox technique of story-telling, an intelligent and realistic style (Huxley is a parallel, Defoe perhaps a forbear) and a willingness to attack serious philosophical issues—questions of religious belief and unbelief, scientific and artistic responsibility, problems of historical change, and above all, personal ethics. He is, in short, an independent mind and a dedicated imagination.

It is true that *The Magus* is the least satisfactory of his novels, with certain inherent structural faults. But it now seems to be the first book he actually wrote (several years prior to *The Collector*), and is really a young writer's experimental workshop. Moreover, its relentless exploration of role-playing in adolescent relation ships has understandably attracted a wide audience, and in America at least turned it into something of a cult book. The fantastic series of games, hallucinations, parables, satirical sketches, riddles, mock trials and false endings is by any standards a tour de force; while the haunting atmosphere of mental magic conjured up by the central figure, Juan Pablo Iñigo Montoya, the mysterious owner of the beautiful domain of Bourani in which the young English schoolmaster Nicholas is enticed and seduced, has given it not unjustly the reputation of being a "trip" event before.

Well, what of the revisions? Structurally the book remains unaltered. The long and rather flat introductory sequence in London is virtually the same; the last melodramatic series of double and triple bluffs, once the "godgame" moves outside the island sanctuary, is allowed to stand. So the novel as a whole remains top-heavy, and a bit self-indulgent—though exuberantly so. The

main rewriting falls between chapters 29 and 59, the scenes set at Bourani itself, concentrating largely on the dialogues between Nicholas and his twin seducers, Julie and June (or Lily and Rose as they appear in the revised *Magus* version). The pace of the hide-and-seek game is skilfully accelerated, the "devotions" of Conchita ("part shame and part shaman") is increased, and the sexual teasing is greatly intensified (itself an interesting and honest social comment on changing mores over the last decade).

The overall effect of these revisions is twofold. The new carpeting of the cache-cache dialogues, with their illusory revelations of personal identity and desire, now gives the central section of the novel all the tightness and excitement of a well-made play. Indeed it is not hard to imagine this part of the revised *Magus* becoming a West End hit. Such technical improvement strikes me as a triumphant proof of Fowles's developing powers. (And how many other novelists would risk exposing themselves to this level of revision?)

The second effect is to cast a perfectly Machiavellian trail of false interpretative clues to the earnest student who is seeking the "true significance" of the island magic. Fowles pretends to be disarmingly frank about this, writing in his cunning forward, an expanded version of which has appeared in *The Times* Saturday Review: "If *The Magus* has any 'real significance', it is no more than that of the Rorschach test in psychology. . . . I now know the generation whose mind it most attracts, and that it must always substantially remain a novel of adolescence written by a returned adolescent." Yet his revision mischievously piles on possibility after possibility of explanation (Hallucinatory drugs are specifically mentioned): Conchita's game is perhaps a piece of "situational therapy"; an example of "meta-theatre"; or a Jungian analysis; or a super-sophisticated behaviourist rat-running maze; or an updating of the Freudian legend; or a game of Tarot cards; or a piece of literary mimicry (all ready for the English Department's revamping)—alternatively—the plots of *The Tempest*, *Great Expectations*, or maybe Honoré d'Urfé's original pastoral romance, *L'Astrée*. To cap it all, the student now has two texts to consult: perhaps the Americans will publish a parallel edition.

More seriously, I think, the revision marks what may perhaps be a decisive moment of

crystallization in Fowles as a whole, and on new novel with its in his foreword drawn out attention to his "magical domain", his source of *ins dominia sunt non Fowlesian*. Anyone his early collector (1964), will not have reference to *Le Gr* as "one of the gr

the further glos *princesse lointaine* tant princess, the unattainable girl; tragedy was that her."

This points to sexual enchantment throughout his work with the "magical quality of his narra the schoolmaster casting his spell, too, how this in domain can be centre of all his fi Clegg's secret wisdom was the beautiful specimen (*The Collector*); th

ill-famed Ware Con Lily Regis who Smithson meets an ally in the "magical ruff (*The French Lieutenant's Woman*) idyllic chateau of in which the old Henry Bessley is two noble art-men and Freak (*The E* 1974). Freak, in discovered reading, *The Magus* in the s

What this "don to Fowles is sum beautifully revis from chapter 47, w is standing between nymphs on the is out to sea at a t flect, and the repp Fowles's mixture ism, and dreamy d tions: "We laugl were held by thos Shapes on the worl Death machines be and his gun-che captive-carrying n reason more thirty than thirty miles; s looking into the fu south: to a world was not the Pros vate dominions, no tiasies, tender sex . . . I stood betw girls and felt fragility not only masochistic, but of time itself."

Oh no, the bear hasn't broken his s he may be about of his old kingdom

Richard

Clear-eyed ironic survival

The Burr Wood
By Philip Glazebrook
(Collins, £4.75)

The Consul's File
By Paul Theroux
(Hamish Hamilton, £3.95)

The Ponsoby Post
By Bernice Rubens
(W. B. Allen, £3.95)

Orsban Tales
By Ursula K. Le Guin
(Collins, £3.75)

These four books are outstandingly clear-eyed about the tensions between pioneering and pragmatism, and their temperaments and presentations differ greatly. Philip Glazebrook is a find, establishing himself in his third novel, *The Burr Wood*, as a major English stylist of penetration and irony. I'll start with him.

"Any city we're in", one of his characters says, "we try and get the same kind of car that way it don't feel we moved." This is in Rome, where his mobile English hero, Kim, quietly avoids doing most things the Romans do while trying to develop his independence. Two central characters emerge, subtle, spell-binding and complementary representations of what are often regarded as archetypal, or at least, British—Kim is considered eccentric and his mother, Mrs Vannick, exemplifies faith in conformity; every particular of her present and planned future, notably her wooded home in England, is well dug into the past. "We", she says, "created our own, chameleon-like image in the early chapters that faunts this novel: in her garden, ancient English trees, beech and oak, with trees transplanted from all over the world, control the wind and frost but, open free to a modern public, their

shelter seems to be rejected. Kim, in his moving journey home, eventually finds a home how much more there is to wide, lasting creativity than an unblinking climate.

Paul Theroux's writing, especially in descriptions, is impeccable and thoughtfully understated. It is at its most adventurous too in *The Consul's File*, a collection of 20 pieces, all more than stories, that grow together as the narrator disinters revelations about expatriates in Malaysia. There is no book I can compare this to: Mr Theroux's artistry is individual, serene, yet also grainy with fierce truths.

A young American consul, formerly in Uganda, comes to the three-car town of Ayer Haven, he claims to be a find any boy, he has an exceptional curiosity of spirit and he observes with every pore in his body (each time a woman moves he feels draughts of her perfume against his face). In a story he looks into those who attempt to dramatize themselves into "exile characters". The English doctor sometimes goes to work in his pyjamas, the surveyor grows watercress in his garden. A life has been kept on them by the previous consul, and the new consul guiltily opens it. He finds white ants have munched through all the papers. Which were mostly empty. He narrates this and subsequent stories—which are full of life and terrors, murder, tennis humour, the pineapple growers' association—with neutral wonder, and the people live on long after the last page.

The middle and hopes of exchanges in dogma-shadowed territory are explored also by Bernice Rubens in *The Ponsoby Post*, where she takes valuable technical risks. At times her new novel reads like comic thriller, but her intelligence and good-natured lack of gloating are so deeply based in reality that her book shapes itself outside categories. Our man from the Arts Council (London) becomes the United Nations liaison officer in central Java; he adapts almost too well, conscious that he learns at least as much as he wishes to teach. There is sabotage,

and quick dea Rubens has a bit homeward, eventually finds a home no one worries rightly at portation of We into birth clinics, harsh isolation between homos trusting, but where her liveliest is in fiction of the disciplicity and muffle mountain guerrilla the creepy drug or

Ursula K. Le extending her w science fiction to duced an allusive monument to p respect, wit, ly limitless as imagination tries are aspirar ies, generally a pear of the paturies or so, the everyone's; her w usness, stately, pedantic, and r systems, optimism, loveliness, and people and place sired by war a become bothered Guin, born in Ca European connexi to an elegant tag, but she stric cal questions th now be regarded most serious inspi ers.

An Ideal Friend, (Corgi, £3.35) bookish, 15-year-o summer in a D town trying to c into the ideas of list and a group students. He start less rethinking. I sections o Riley's faithful n changing fashions tional rituals. A Addison said: "I send us up any m a cock and a bul pryche, Michael; habitually use m and four-letter w is their word fo want to know ti time. Do not b they and their es stood contemp worth knowing.

New Stories 2, e vent May and A (Arts Council, £ exhibits equibal British writers r and unknown wri gnality and form on the whole, m genality, their companionable s sonableness; Dan Weldon, Brian G Fuller. Seek ou more's precise widow's passion other people's "Good" a morn McGurk, by Jo who has been a telephonist and the potency of tal

Myrna

H. R. F. Keating

Myrna

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Ronald Butt

Behind the cheers in the streets, a quiet note of protest

England is not much given to self-expression. The English people are as a rule, too self-conscious, and foreigners find us strangely inarticulate as a nation. They can't make us out, and wonder whether we are very stupid or very deep, and generally agree that we are both. We can't make ourselves out, and are surprised now and then—amazed even—by such sudden outbursts of mused emotion, when we thought ourselves unemotional, and by occasional manifestations of national unity, when we believed we were at sixes and sevens.

That paragraph, I think, is a fair description of what has happened this week, but the words are not by me, and nor about this jubilee. They were written by Sir Philip Gibbs, a distinguished journalist of his time, about the jubilee of King George V in 1935, and I have taken them from his book, *England Speaks*, which he described as a "panorama of the English scene in that year".

Then as now, the emotion, the revelries and the parties in the streets of Britain took everybody by surprise. Then as now, behind the pleasantness of the immediate scene, there were deep causes for concern including the terrorism, the threat that was diminishing, and the general state of the economy, national and international.

There is a fascinating account in Gibbs' book of the warning words spoken to the author by the economist Sir George Paish on the likely consequences of the "application of temporary palliatives" to the breakdown of world trade and credit, and

of tariff barriers as "the root cause of war". People like Germany and like Japan must either trade or fight for the sources of food and raw materials. There was, not least, the overhanging fear of the war that was not in the end to be avoided.

Our own not altogether different anxieties today are too familiar to need listing. And once again the people have made a spontaneous demonstration towards the monarch in a way that makes it impossible for anyone to say that this was got up by the media of communications, or by anyone else.

The faces of the people wherever the Queen walked among them spoke for themselves. One does not see much of what I would call real happiness in the streets these days, but there is no other world for what the television cameras recorded on Tuesday.

It was the sort of happiness that had nothing to do with mass hysteria, nothing to do with class or snobishness. Nobody had drilled it into existence by slogans, wall-newspapers, force or little blue books. It was spontaneous—but why?

What I think the jubilee has shown is that there exists in the people a whole a real wish for a society less dominated by the characteristic intellectual and spiritual destructiveness and derision of our time. These are wishes that most people instinctively reject and resent, but for the most part, they are helpless, lacking articulate leadership, to resist them.

The people's acclaim of the Queen

is, I suspect, in part a protest because they recognize in her the embodiment of more abiding standards of responsibility which they wish, for the most part, to aim at, but which are elsewhere so often derided.

Important though the Crown is constitutionally and historically, this was above all a personal celebration, and I think myself that the affection shown for the Queen on Tuesday can fairly be seen as a statement by the people that they too are on the side of the abiding values which she exemplifies.

So it happened this week that I was reading some farewell remarks from a teacher at a London school who also coincidentally after 25 years of remarkable social change, happens to be retiring. This is what he wrote.

"Total exposure to the media has removed the distinction between the adult's world and the schoolboy's. Few of the homes from which our boys come can now protect them from what I consider the vulgarity of the media. . . . There are few homes where swearing, coarse humour, permissiveness and violence intruded into television supplied them. Home is no longer a place where the child is protected from the vulgarities of the adult world, and the child is now a simple statement of what ought to be recognized as a simple, and the intellectual fashion is, in any case, to regard none of these things as really important,

except perhaps violence—for which an exception is often made that seems not much more than a matter of form.

Yet common sense and natural instinct would condemn the rest of the list as well, because in the end all these things stand for the triumph of a kind of cruelty, even if it is only verbal, over gentleness and dignity. You don't, after all, hurt insults, or obscenity, or people as a kindly gesture. But when that is a staple fare now offered as at any rate one normal pattern of adult behaviour on television, it is hard to blame the young if they emulate it.

Now do I suppose that everybody is wholly unimpressed by the proliferation of the kind of degrading public entertainment which now proliferates and diminishes humanity.

Yet for the majority of people, the old values die hard in these matters, just as most of us still wish (given a chance) to do their duty at work in the community, and still have a sense of patriotism. These are things that the intellectual paragon finds hard to understand.

Or do they understand and fear it? Last week the *New Statesman* produced a special issue of its pathos and splendid misanthropy which would not surprise anyone acquainted with the moving spirit of that journal. It was something quite separate from any rational case for republicanism. It was a series of lewd and brutal personal attacks on the Royal Family.

The Duke of Edinburgh was

attacked in terms that would, if not so silly, have been amusing if applied to a world-be political enemy. The Queen was attacked by means of quotations of rude words from children's essays which told more about the influences to which the children were subjected than about anything else.

She was even attacked for her interest in the kind of sports she enjoys, and for an alleged lack of interest in the achievements of our contemporary arts. (Would the same charge be directed at a football crowd?) Yet if the Queen were unsympathetic to that very substantial area of the new culture which is both destructive and humanly demeaning—well, so are very many of her people who are far from being philistine, but who, for the most part, have to depend on the great artistic achievements of the past.

I think that the people this week have made a protest in a very specific way which subconsciously rejects a great deal of the rawness of our time, and by saluting the Queen and her family stakes a claim to more abiding values. They do so because they are, I think, aware that they represent their own aspirations.

I suppose, therefore, that we should not wonder that the intellectual left should splutter and rage. They must feel greatly let down by the common people. They must feel quite lonely. For the rest of us, I think we have learned something about the mind of the nation, though whether we are able to profit by it is another matter.

After the scandals, a new wave of optimism sweeps West Berlin

The pall of gloom, which descended on West Berlin recently as it walloped through simultaneous external and internal crises has now begun to make way for a new optimism in the embattled city.

Just as a well-orchestrated East German campaign to accentuate the isolation of the walled western enclave reached its peak, the city administration finally collapsed under the weight of a long series of political scandals. Even the 2,000,000, crisis-hardened West Berliners found this depressing coincidence of external pressure and internal disaster hard to take.

In rapid succession, the East Germans imposed visa charges on foreigners and road-one fees on West Berliners visiting East Berlin, abolished border controls between East Berlin and the territory of East Germany proper, stopped specially recruiting East German laws before they could be applied in East Berlin, and removed the phrase "Greater Berlin" from the name of the East Berlin municipal government. In new treaties, treaties with Russia and Poland, the East Germans obtained the inclusion of an article emphasizing that West Berlin is not part of West Germany and cannot be governed by it.

Internally, corruption, nepotism, complacency and factionalism eroded the West Berlin administration of Herr Klaus Schütz, the governing mayor, to such an extent that he was forced to resign, even though he was personally blameless.

The answer to the governmental crisis came with the election of Herr Dietrich Stobbe as governing mayor. At 39, he is the youngest man ever to hold the post, and he showed, in an interview with *The Times*, a quiet but confident determination to put the city on a new course.

He began by importing new blood from Bonn for his Senate (Cabinet) and departing from precedent by declining to stand for the city chairmanship of the ruling Social Democrats. He told me openly that his aim was to win the West Berlin election in 1979 by good government, and not as in the past by elections by sitting around in party committees. He said he would use the extra time thus gained to persuade all interest groups to work together for the city's future. "I want to be judged on what I do, not what I say."

The prospect of a new start under a young and vigorous, if not over-flamboyant, governing mayor would of itself have done something for morale. But the city in general and Herr Stobbe in particular received a large and unexpected filip from outside just as the new men were moving into City Hall.

At a summit conference on Berlin in London on May 9, the leaders of the United States, Britain, France and West Germany issued a powerful, fully-worded statement warning against unilateral attempts to change the status of the city as a four-power responsibility. This was in response not only to the East German moves but also to the parallel and hardly coincidental Soviet renewal of the claim that the 1971 Four-Power Agreement on Berlin concerned only West Berlin.

The force of the declaration clearly took the Soviet block by surprise, reducing the Russians to silence. All this delighted Herr Stobbe, who clearly saw it as a good omen for his new role in one of the most difficult of political jobs. Not only had it shown the will of the three western powers who retain sovereignty in West Berlin to stand up for it, it had also underlined the importance of West Germany's support of West Berlin. "The London declaration reminded us that we are not alone."

The resurgence of internal self-confidence and external commitment does not, however, mean that West Berlin's prob-

lems have been solved. It has special economic ties as well as psychological separation. West as a free island communist sea.

West Berlin has lost its stock of jobs in six years, and its officials identify the city's most serious economic problem, and campaign against it. Population is also and at the same time unusually high number slower. The official estimate is that the population is about 1,700,000 in West Berlin.

Herr Stobbe, though about demographic problems positively welcomes it because a population of 1,700,000 would count much higher property employed people. A million "barrier" is psychological and has significance. We have reservoir of young people the future lies with it.

The new mayor is likely to expose the complaint that Berliners are always for help. "We are need some help but has every reason to of its achievements a not be afraid of a people of them."

Among the other aspects of West Berlin life which Herr Stobbe to tackle are the bad the city's public services, its building programme. He wants to line the administrator it ceases to be a focus of controversy, and to emphasize in housing, demolition and reconstruction modernization property, for £200,000,000 has already been set aside.

It remains ineffably to ask the western powers to ask the question about Berlin: whether the would (or could, or should) the way to preserve freedom, inclusion. But, if put as an open question, in the phrase of the Latin grammarian question expecting the "No", it is a fair o question clearly in the interest. Even so, the response suggests the questioner is challenging the honour of the city, and damaging the credibility. Nato and attempting to off the city and its altogether.

But then one of West special qualities is the it arouses in the people there to protect it as strators or soldiers.

The facts are that, the ever-receding German treaty, West Berlin will a thorn in the flesh Soviet block, a permanent station to the East German standing temptation to pressure on the We ultimately a potential "war". To defend it, the precisely three infantry groups, one American, British and one French, are 20 Soviet and German divisions in many. In the event of a city would be a writ West Berlin worth the.

For those who have chance and the time to know, the city and with their sharp hum answer has to be a res yes.

If West Berlin has e difficulties, these are, overwhelmingly the result of world recession, and geographical position peculiar political statu merely facile, and in wrong, to describe it as city. It is more alive t other German cities, and an advertisement f western world.

Dan van d

The growing urgency for shared schools in Ulster

I do not know of any measures which would prepare the way for a better future for the children of an early age and bringing them up in the same school, leading them to commune with one another and to form those little intimacies and friendships which often subsist through life.

James Warren Doyle, Roman Catholic Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, 1826

Almost a year has now passed since the former Northern Ireland Secretary, Mr Merlyn Rees, assured an audience of Irish politicians, civil servants, and many individuals in the life of Northern Ireland, gathered at the Oxford Union, that he was willing, indeed anxious, to convene a conference to consider proposals for integrated schools in Northern Ireland.

All present were surprised that he should have chosen to break the self-imposed embargo placed on this crucial issue by successive British governments. Ministers, including the Prime Minister, in a speech at the 1970 Labour Party conference, had indicated with any force previously such public support for the idea. So Mr Rees's assurance was welcome. It suggested a long overdue change of direction in government approach to Northern Ireland, but the assurance had been given at the end of an indignant, impassioned speech. One wondered what weight could be placed upon it.

The answer is now clear: absolutely none. During the interim period, Northern Ireland ministers have engaged in some half-hearted, perfunctory discussions on the subject. The message is that Labour ministers in Northern Ireland regard Mr Rees's assurance as a distinct embarrassment, and not an opportunity for the creative development of the present system of direct rule.

Direct rule is likely to last for some time. It is widely accepted though not enthusiastically supported. It is a tragedy, therefore, that in this period the opportunity to create a basis for radical social change is neither appreciated nor grasped.

No one who knows the attitudes prevalent today among young children, as well as the

hardened teenagers of Belfast and Londonderry, will be satisfied by the list of arguments put up by nervous government ministers or ultramontane Roman Catholic prelates against the case for even the most modest experiment in integrated schooling in Northern Ireland. Why should this approach be accepted? There is clearly substantial support within both communities for the principle of shared schools.

The schools issue is a particularly delicate one in the history of Northern Ireland. Ever since Partition in 1921, the schools have provided a source of conflict between the communities as well as a forum for the dogmas of zealous Protestant and traditional Catholic clerics alike.

It must be said that the academic attainment levels both in schools transferred to the state by the Protestant churches and in Catholic schools have been consistently high, flourishing greatly after the reforms which followed the Butler Act in Great Britain. Since 1947 transferred Protestant schools have become more free of church control, and they have sought to operate an open admission policy. But this openness has been one of theory, not translated into practical results. Side by side the Catholic maintained schools have grown in strength. After lengthy and hard campaigning for increased financial support from public funds, the battle was won and the Catholic schools were able to forget the earlier uncertainty posed by their financial difficulties.

As financial and academic differences have become less apparent, so, correspondingly, has the influence of the two school systems on their pupils become more pronounced. Now teachers within both systems are questioning the situation. Recently the Ulster Teachers' Union, a body mainly representative of the controlled state schools which were transferred by the Protestant churches, has made renewed demands for integration. In the past such demands have often seemed token, but they are now displayed with a new urgency. The example of Mr John Burrell, the headmaster of Fivemiletown High School in Co Tyrone, who

has over a period of years successfully demonstrated that integrated schooling can work in practice, has become a focus of attention. Ultimately, however, it is the known reaction of both Protestant and Catholics in Northern Ireland to the idea of integrated schooling which provides the greatest hope. Opinion polls conducted during the past 10 years have consistently shown a high degree of support for the idea of integration.

The same goes for the Catholic hierarchy, who have repeatedly claimed that integration would be a threat to the right to denominational schools existing at all, it may be expected that there would be hostility mounted by some fundamentalist Protestants. The issue then is not whether there would be hostility in some quarters (because that is to be expected), but rather the strength of the opposing factions. The opinion polls suggest that only a minority would actively support such opposition.

The most potent weapon against the idea of integrated schooling remains the reaction of the Irish Catholic hierarchy. The traditional Catholic view acknowledges that separate denominational schools is in keeping with Canon Law principles. The Canon law objection is an important one. It must be recognized that the Catholic Church throughout the world has always been strong in its work to preserve its schools. This approach, however, is by no means as monolithic or absolute as it earlier seemed.

Cardinal Hume's support for integrated schooling in Northern Ireland, voiced this year in a television interview with Ludovic Kennedy, has opened up gaps. Many devout Catholics question the relevance of the Canon law argument in Northern Ireland today. Certainly, any new integrated schools in Northern Ireland

would need to be pioneered against a clear acceptance that the right to existence of the Catholic schools as such will not be threatened. Furthermore, any new schools must be shared schools and it would be critical that in matters of curriculum, appointments and access, the Catholic parents viewpoint would be taken fully into account.

The potency of the Irish Catholic hierarchy's argument lies, of course, in questioning the loyalty of their flock. Few Catholics, however, are aware of the communal tensions of Northern Ireland, and can be expected to feel confident about challenging their spiritual leaders. But the Northern Ireland Catholic population is by its means cohesive or sacrosanct in outlook in this matter.

Thus, some parents, admittedly mainly middle-class living in the Belfast and North Down areas, have been prepared to resist such pressures and are sending their children to existing "state" schools. It is clear they would prefer to send their children to a new type of shared school. In response to this action the Bishop of Down and Connor, Dr Phyllis, authorized that confirmation of the children involved be refused. Such a response might be justified on the basis of a proper test of the children's knowledge of their faith. However, no such test was carried out. The naked truth is that the parents' action was not acceptable as it challenged traditional vested interests.

The late Cardinal Conway consistently argued that the separate school system did not cause the Northern Ireland troubles and divisions. He was undoubtedly correct. But his argument sidestepped the real question. It is not any answer to the question whether a shared integrated school system would help in some measure to heal community divisions. It is simply that the schools did not cause those divisions. The true question has simply been avoided. It is a pity that in this land supposedly of saints and scholars there seems to be so little thought for the scholars.

Brian Garrett

Are they being too soft on the gunmen?

The South Moluccan gunmen holding 56 hostages in a tense school in northern Holland have now established a dubious record. On June 7, as the siege entered its sixteenth day, it became the longest such siege in Dutch criminal history.

The Dutch authorities have admitted that the terrorists are much tougher than any they have faced before. The gunmen have treated their hostages rather better than have others in previous situations, but are proving to be tougher in negotiations.

The question inevitably arises: are the authorities conducting the siege as they should? Many experts on brainwashing are becoming very worried at the turn events have taken. They have every reason to be concerned. It is one thing to keep the situation off the boil and try to ensure that events run quietly for those who have been kidnapped, but it is quite another to allow the terrorists to fix into a complacent frame of mind.

In this situation pressure must be continually applied to the kidnappers. All the time the gunmen must be told that their situation is absolutely hopeless. It must be made quite clear to them that if there is any shooting they themselves are almost certain to be shot as soon as it starts. It can be

hinted that if they give themselves up they might possibly get a lesser sentence as a trial for their kindness to their sick captives: otherwise their fate is death or a lifetime in jail.

Human and animal brains, proving that the psychological stress is great enough and provided that it continues incessantly, will always become more and more suggestible under such circumstances. Finally, just as the exhausted rabbit turns and runs straight into the mouth of the pursuing stoat, so the kidnappers' brains will go into reverse and they will walk out and give themselves up.

This technique could and should be applied in the Dutch situation. The present terrible danger in this long Dutch siege is that unless this state of exhaustion is reached soon, some of the captives' minds may become disordered before the kidnappers and they will set in a way which means that shooting starts, and perhaps spark off a bloodbath.

The psychological methods used on the kidnappers must be as intensive and continuous as possible. There must be no restful letups and useless conferences.

Dr William Sargent

The author is Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist at St Thomas Hospital, London.

The rich aromatic, bittersweet chunks of Frank Cooper's Oxford Marmalade have made the British breakfast a matter of envy the world over. Ever since Mrs. Cooper filled the first jars in 1874, the men of Oxford have spread its fame in the tropics, the New World, as far as the Antarctic and Everest itself.

FRANK COOPER makes the marmalade that makes the British breakfast



A Night at the Opera, or, the Strangler Strikes

It is too early yet to talk of dying gasps, but the Arts Council's grip on the windpipe of the English Music Theatre is visibly tightening. The company is now at Sadler's Wells, and its on-stage nerve betrays its gloomy prospects.

EMT, which fills theatres to 75 per cent capacity, is having its Arts Council subsidy slashed from £269,000 to £100,000. So it will have to drop the commercially remunerative "standards" from its repertoire. *Albert Herring*, *Magic Flute* and the like—and offer only experimental works.

I have talked to both the Arts Council and the company and a conflicting picture emerges. The council says EMT's future shape is in line with the company's own stated preference—to explore new territory.

The company denies this. It says it cannot exist only as an experimenting group: its system of making actors, singers and dancers swap roles depends for its success on a mixture of standard and new works. The subsidy cut will mean it can stage only two short (possibly 10-day) seasons a year, spelling the destruction of the closely knit company as it exists now.

The Arts Council does not

Weighty matter

What weighs 12lb, is four inches thick and took eight years to make? No, it is nothing to do with the Bionic Man. Nor is it Harold Wilson's honour list. Of course, you guessed, the one-volume, 2,856-page, illustrated *Random House Encyclopedia*.

This is the American edition, to be published on September 30, of the Mitchell Beazley *Joy of Knowledge Library*. In this format it needs 10 volumes, four of which have so far appeared.

The (as yet unpublished) American version has already achieved stunning sales figures, which is good for our balance of payments and a tribute to British technology. It is rumoured that the *Encyclopedia* will be a best-seller. The American Chain (Mitchell Beazley last achieved this with the *Joy of Sex*)

Floral tribute to the crowd

As those staggering crowds thronged The Mall and pressed to the very railings of Buckingham Palace on Tuesday afternoon, shouting "We want the Queen" a colleague in this office suggested that the damage to the grass verges and the flora would be considerable.

Another view of the procession on television, the Baliff of the Royal Parks no less, groaned and said exactly the same thing. He admitted to being "horried" by the crowds trampling on 4,000 blooming geraniums in the flower beds opposite the Palace gates. Where, he wondered, would he find the necessary number of replacements.

For the Coronation, of course, Queen's Gardens was covered with stands to house the spectators to that procession. So yesterday morning, the Baliff and his staff approached the top of The Mall in fear and trepidation of what they would find.

Two London Transport men, stung by their bosses' allegations of bad time-keeping, carried out their own reliability test on their own bus.

"At no time," they reported, "did we arrive more than three minutes late." Swelling with pride, they added: "At one stage, we were 33 minutes early."



In a way, you might say it has found its roots again. Assuming, of course, it is what Mr Leo Cooper is sure that it is—a piece of the Wembley turf ripped up by Scots supporters last Saturday and unheard of since. Mr Cooper, a Shaftesbury Avenue book publisher, found it in an alley, near his offices where the Scots swarmed last week. It was still fresh and firm and had obviously been torn up in a hurry. "I'd know that stuff anywhere," said Mr Cooper.

It's from Ganton Golf Course, in my home county of Yorkshire. The Wembley ground is, of course, surfaced with Ganton sand. Mr Cooper will either plant his find in his Putney garden or present it to the Rugby Union.

Piaf on move

The musical tribute to singer Edith Piaf, which has been running successfully at the King Theatre Club in Islington transfer to the Shaftesbury Theatre. So I called to get some details and was told that the show, which was to be re-run on June 21, the songs are fresh and, I was informed of the performers, equal role, none preserve Piaf herself. Just as two of the players are Libby Morris, Maurice Peter Rees and Clifton give the four-person a name, Messrs Reeves and having recently joined



IRELAND APPROACHES THE POLLS

ing prices and persistently unemployment have, for the being anyway, blighted the chances of the Labour Government in Britain. In the public of Ireland prices have risen even more sharply than in the rest of the country (though inflation rate at the moment is fractionally below the rest) and over 10 per cent of the labour force is officially unemployed (twice the rate in Britain). Yet Mr Liam Cosgrave, who leads the Fine Gael and Labour coalition government, has called a general election and the Coalition favours the Fine Gael as narrow favourites. Their favour was Mr Cosgrave's stern and inflexible reaction of the Provisional Government, fully shared by his Minister of Justice, Mr Conroy. It chimes with the present popular mood of the IRA, and has a support in the Republic, the economy, though the road and outlook for prices employment are bad, not all to the government's disadvantage. Ireland has weathered recession better in some respects than other countries. Inward investment has kept up reasonably; the economy grew and is expected to grow around 4 per cent last year and this; industrial exports have been remarkably buoyant, up 17 per cent in the last year. A light budget (January made substantial cuts in direct taxation and did much to restore business confidence. Farmers, thanks to the transition to EEC prices and devaluation of the Irish pound, enjoying large increases in income, especially in dairy. They have never had it so good, an electoral factor of some importance in agricultural areas. The only blot on their record is that the Cosgrave Government plucked up the courage never found before to raise farming incomes within scope of income tax. But Mrs. Fail, the opposition leader, does not intend to undo that act of justice, and anyway first yield in tax was, to body's surprise, less than fiscal estimates: the fastest growing sector of agricultural output is accountancy. The Coalition has secured its flank also. Under a four minister welfare payments have been largely undented in scope and real value. There was the revision of constituency boundaries, which, or perhaps six seats to the

government, a winning margin in many Irish elections. The Irish variety of proportional representation, often held up as a model of arithmetical parity, by electoral reformers, gives ample scope for parties to manipulate in the delineation of constituencies. All parties do it when they get the chance, so cries of "gerrymander" fall flat. Fine Gael and Labour got their chance during the parliament that has just been dissolved, and made the most of it. Fianna Fail, led by Mr Jack Lynch, had not been impressive in opposition, and had fared poorly in by-elections. But it regained its political touch when the "election" was declared. Its manifesto went straight to the weaknesses in the government's record, prices and employment, and it is there that the pressure has so far been maintained. Fianna Fail's "action plan for national reconstruction" promises the creation of 20,000 jobs in the first year, large income tax cuts, the abolition of domestic rating (also promised by the Coalition), and abolition of the excise duty on cars under 16 hp. Initially, until the economy moves into higher gear, this social programme is to be financed by borrowing, £250m in a full year, according to the authors of the policy, a very large sum in the context of Irish public finance. The Coalition having expended its largesse in the budget and in the pre-election distribution of investment grants and other favours cannot match the impact of the Fianna Fail programme; nor has it yet had much success in putting its chief weakness, which is its dependence on foreign borrowing, is not one the Coalition is well placed to exploit, having itself increased the foreign indebtedness of the nation during its term of office by a factor of six. The parties are undoubtedly concentrating on the bread and butter issues which most trouble the Irish electorate. Yet a certain uneasiness prevails. The behaviour of prices in Ireland is closely linked to the behaviour of prices in Britain, over which neither Fine Gael nor Fianna Fail exercise control; and so it will remain unless the parity of the Irish pound and the pound sterling is broken, about which neither party has anything to say. At the same time the requirements for the achievement of anything like full employment, now that for the first time since

the Famine the population of Ireland is on a rising trend, are so exacting that even the parties' electoral promises are puny in comparison. For spectators in the United Kingdom the chief interest in the election is the outcome of the election, which will determine the balance of power between the Irish and Anglo-Irish cooperation in the face of violent subversion. Doubtless the British authorities would prefer the return of Mr Cosgrave's administration, with which there is good rapport on security matters and which harbours no tendency to political adventurism in the North. But attempts to demonstrate the unreliability of a Fianna Fail government should be treated with caution. True, the party has its origins in a more aggressive form of republicanism. True, it is committed to demanding that Britain declare an intention to withdraw from Northern Ireland. Mr Lynch himself prefers to talk of Britain declaring that its long-term interest would be best served by Irish unification, and he attaches to that two emphatic conditions: that any mention of a date would be impolitic and that ultimate unification must be conditional upon its willing acceptance by a majority of the people in Northern Ireland. True too, Mr Charles Haughey, dismissed from the Cabinet by Mr Lynch in 1970, and charged and acquitted of conspiring to import illegally into the Republic arms destined for use in Northern Ireland, is now fully rehabilitated in the party and is once more a contender for the leadership when Mr Lynch goes—as he is likely to do before another election comes round. But equally it must not be forgotten that internal security in the Republic and cross-border cooperation improved considerably in the later years of the last Fianna Fail government. That Fianna Fail introduced, against the opposition of Fine Gael, the Offences against the State Act under which Mr Cosgrave's government has chiefly proceeded against the IRA. If Fianna Fail win this election it will be very largely due to the personal popularity of Mr Lynch, which will effectively reinforce his view of the Northern question. Above all, the Irish electorate looks to its government to preserve it from contagion by the vicious futility of the Ulster struggle; and that is a palpable constraint on any government and any set of ministers.

BARRAGE BEFORE BELGRADE

Russians are becoming restlessly worried about Carter. The two new books on him by Tass, the Soviet news agency, are most virulent yet and are intended to be read as a serious warning of Soviet-American relations in danger. They talk about the "malicious" nature of the administration and accuse the "malicious" publicist, "canon" on alleged violations of rights in the Soviet Union. This, they say, will not be the communist states; their stand but could have adverse effect on Soviet-American relations and on the Soviet press has a relatively restrained in its President Carter. It has vigorously attacked his policies, especially human rights, and complained about the arms control agreement taken to Moscow by Mr. Carter, the Secretary of State, not until April 20 did it lay him personally, and then by for allegedly gearing economic strategy to the meeting interests of the biggest oilpiles, which are well represented in his Administration. It seemed that the Russians' concern was to take the

shine off President Carter's image as a populist concerned with social justice and to depict him as just another puppet of the big capitalists. They seemed particularly anxious to prevent him gaining credit in the developing countries, and they also attacked Mr Andrew Young, his ambassador to the United Nations. Now, however, they are laying it on the line that he must either stop "interfering" in their internal affairs or risk seriously damaging the whole relationship. This is an interesting and significant change. It shows that the Russians are now less hopeful than they were that President Carter would gradually lose his public enthusiasm for human rights and revert to more discreet forms of diplomacy. They are beginning to worry that he actually means what he says. Their worry is enhanced by the approach of the Belgrade conference, which is to review the Helsinki agreement signed two years ago. Next week officials of the 35 signatories will meet to discuss the procedure, agenda and date for the main conference, which is expected sometime in the autumn. The Russians want an agenda that will rule out or severely discourage western scrutiny of their own record in implementing the agreement, which includes clauses on human

rights and related subjects. The West will not accept this, and the Americans are now taking a much firmer stand than during the negotiations, which led up to the Helsinki conference, when it was the Europeans who wanted to talk about human rights and Dr Kissinger who did not want to rock the East-West boat. This probably explains why the Russians have chosen this moment to attack. President Carter need not let himself be unduly worried. When the Russians decide to test an American president they do not stop at half measures, but they are usually capable of making the necessary adjustments if they find him standing firm. On human rights they are obviously particularly sensitive because their pride and their image are at stake, and because they are probably genuinely worried about stability in eastern Europe, but there is now no way in which they can remove the issues from international debate. Nor should they be allowed to. They have no real basis for their complaints about "interference", since they themselves are free enough with their comments on the affairs of others, and they cannot argue that discussion of human rights is inimical to détente, since the Helsinki agreement says precisely the contrary. The President should stand firm.

THE SURVIVAL OF WHALES

sidering how little we ever or small of it, the whale takes a surprisingly prominent place in our consciousness. Preeminent size is very interesting, and so is the alizing evidence of intelligence, feelings and social instincts in a bulk so inconspicuously alien. Animals exploited, treated by our own species on gain much public sympathy unless they are more cuddly, but the wet and jelly whale has made itself popular international cause. A kind of large whale have greatly reduced by hunting, he point where fears arise they may be made extinct, now Dr Radway Allen and Ray Gambell, of the International Whaling Commission are that all the excitement is misguided hoo-ha. The commission is a body whose motives have not always been pure. It is a group of the 16 countries most involved in whale fishing, and has limited powers of control over its members. It has often been accused of being unduly influenced by their short-term commercial interests. Its scientific

committee, of which Dr Allen is chairman, has more than once recommended steps to protect whale stocks which have been disregarded by the commission at its annual meetings to set fishing quotas for the coming season (the next meeting takes place in Australia later this month). These quotas have usually been set at lower and lower levels each year, yet the catch has often failed to reach the quotas, or else has been made up of smaller animals than before—strong indications of over-fishing. Since 1975 the commission has shown signs of increasing assurance in meeting criticisms. Even though Dr Allen is chairman of the scientific committee whose advice was rejected in other years, he is full of confidence today. This is partly because he is able to point to evidence that since hunting of certain acutely endangered species has been forbidden, their numbers have begun to increase again, and partly because the new quota system used in the past two seasons has distinguished much better between species and between different parts of the world where the threat is more or less urgent.

But the means of control cannot be more accurate than the information about populations on which it is based. The numbers, habits and life cycles of whales are still only imperfectly understood. Their long gestation and nursing periods mean that populations can only replenish themselves slowly. For every species there is an unpredictable point beyond which recovery is impossible even if hunting ceases (the passenger pigeon, for instance, was made a protected bird while it was still the most numerous bird in the United States, but the pattern had already been broken and it rapidly became extinct). Whales not yet protected may not recover as easily as other species have. The catch has declined so far now that whaling is of far less importance than it was even in Russia and Japan, the main whaling nations. When the commission sets the quotas for next season, it should resist pressures and let caution rule. It is all too easy for us today to draw levithian up with a hook, but once we have drawn up the whole race we are no more able to recall it to life than men could in Job's day.

'Long to reign over us'

From Dr Noble Frankland
Sir, Mr George Hutchinson's suggestion (June 4) in the course of an otherwise excellent article that the Queen should give way to the Prince of Wales in her lifetime is misguided. Loyalty to the Crown also involves attachment to the person of the Sovereign and the active wish, expressed in the first verse of the National Anthem, to sustain her (or him) on the throne. Abandonment or exclusion, save in utterly exceptional circumstances, such as those concerning James II and Edward VIII, is a dangerous and basically republican instrument. The natural succession has proved not only its value but its superiority over artificial systems. Moreover, the argument that Queen Victoria held on too long is historical nonsense. Her immense prestige and still unique place in the annals of our monarchy were due to numerous factors and the less of which was the sheer length of her reign. Edward VII, had he succeeded earlier, might, for all we know, not have been a particularly good King, what we do know is that in his brief reign he achieved a stunning success, giving his name to an era and by his death casting the whole nation into passionate grief.

While Sovereigns seldom seem to die at the right moment, and in this connection one thinks particularly of King George VI who, like a soldier in war, virtually gave up his life for us, a little reflection may suggest that the death of a monarch is a better thing than by decision of the Privy Council, or advice in the newspapers. I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
NOBLE FRANKLAND,
Thames House,
Riverside, Oxford.
June 4.

From Mr G. M. Fogwill
Sir, As we salute the Queen on the occasion of her Silver Jubilee, let us assess her achievement in the light of the difficult conditions of her reign. It started with high hopes of a new Elizabethan age, but in the development of the British Empire in its transition to a Commonwealth under our leadership:

Aboriginal reserves in Queensland

From Mr Stuart Harris
Sir, It was reported from London that Mr. Fraser, the Australian Prime Minister, has strongly attacked apartheid in South Africa. In this context your readers should be aware that Aborigines in Australia are still treated with discrimination, under an Act of the Queensland Government. In Queensland Aborigines on reserves are subjected to State Government regulations which not only set them apart from white Australians but also from their fellow Aborigines off reserves. This is a particularly pernicious feature because the Australian Government has found it politically convenient not to implement in Queensland (alone of all States) the constitutional responsibility it was given for all Aborigines throughout Australia by the 1967 Referendum. Moreover, in the Northern Territory, since the passage of the Land Rights Act in Canberra last year, Aborigines own by inalienable title areas of land, some of the size of the United Kingdom. This legislation represented a profound, if delicate change in Australia's attitude to Aborigines and the Government acted on it. But the change is not yet wide enough and deep enough and is being challenged by the conservative elements of the community whose attitude remains unconvincing.

Compulsory seat belts

From Mr Bryan Magee, MP for Waltham Forest, Leyton (Labour)
Sir, Dick Russell wastes an awful lot of your space (June 2) on the missing of a very simple point. When writing of the money costs that would be saved to the community by the compulsory wearing of seat belts I used the phrase "8 or 9 figures per annum" simply because the estimates range from the £100,000,000 mark. The most conservative is that of the Department of Environment which, erring overly on the side of caution, brings it out at £73,000,000. It is based on an estimated saving of 1,000 lives and 11,000 serious injuries a year, figures which are now agreed by almost everyone seriously concerned with the matter to be too low.

I did not spell out these figures in my earlier letter, partly because they can only be estimates but chiefly because the actual figures are not the point. By any reckoning, the saving in lives, tragedies and money that would be brought about by the compulsory wearing of seat belts would be enormous, and the loss of personal freedom negligible. The reason why opponents of the measure try so often to turn it all into a joke is that they have no serious case. Yours, etc.,
BRYAN MAGEE,
House of Commons,
June 2.

Arrests in Poland

From Sir Alfred Ayer, FBA and others
Sir We are deeply disturbed at the recent wave of arrests in Poland of persons connected with the Workers' Defense Committee. We hope that the Polish government will reconsider its action and that it will not wish to jeopardize the progress of recent years in respecting human rights and self-expression. Yours sincerely,
A. J. AYER,
New College,
CHRISTOPHER HILL,
Bristol.
CHARLES TAYLOR,
All Souls,
Oxford, June 3.

at home in the tasks of reconstruction would be secured in the circumstances of accepted change provided by the welfare state. In the event, the forces of separation have pursued the Crown right into the United Kingdom itself, and a transition has been considerable at times. Her Majesty has had to sustain her Throne as an emblem of stability amidst the chaos in personal relationships which has even approached her own person. The Monarch's role in conserving and sustaining the national character and constitution in a time of sharp retreat must be substantially more difficult and crucial than when leading an advance like Victoria. As we thank God for Queen Elizabeth II, and the serene self-possession with which she occupies her role, I hope that no thought of abdication to retirement will ever be considered, because the consoling aspect of the Monarchy is one of the chief sources of its authority. Yours faithfully,
G. M. FOGWILL,
Riverside,
Thames House,
Riverside, Oxford.
June 4.

Relations with Japan

From Lord Sheffield
Sir, After himself adding vehemence to my letter (of May 28) on the bombing of Hiroshima, Professor Dore (Leamington, June 2) then links it with views about Japan which I have never held. In such opportunities as I have had in the past 25 years, I have tried to cement Anglo-Japanese relations and to encourage and support the concept of what is now called triateralism. I have always found my contacts with Japanese politicians, officials and businessmen fruitful and free of tension. I am not qualified to express an opinion on the psychological complexities of the Professor's thesis, but I venture to suggest that they have little or nothing to do with the means by which the war against Japan was brought to an end in 1945. Yours faithfully,
SHERFIELD,
House of Lords,
June 8.

Despite a firm election promise to Aborigines in 1975 it has cut very deeply expenditure on Aboriginal recovery. In a period of rapid inflation, spending in the year ending this month will be about A\$174m compared to A\$185m last year. More significantly, this year's expenditure represents only 0.7 per cent of all Australian Government expenditure, compared to 0.9 per cent in 1974-75, the last full year of the previous Government's administration. The conclusion must be that the Australian Government is less committed to Aboriginal recovery—and the results are serious.

For example, the Aboriginal Land Fund Commission, which buys properties for Aborigines, is short of money. Moreover, in Queensland, where it did manage to buy two important properties, the State Government refused to permit their transfer. Mr Fraser's Government has so far accepted this, and to itself and to Aborigines. Australia's regional and concern for Aborigines have increased in recent years but Australian Prime Ministers will have to do much more and do it quickly if they are going to, very properly, criticize South Africa. Yours faithfully,
STUART HARRIS,
Senior Research Fellow,
The Research School of Pacific Studies,
The Australian National University,
Box 4, P.O., Canberra,
June 1.

Breakfasts

From Dr G. W. Lynch
Sir, As former head of the Social Nutrition Research Unit at Queen Elizabeth College, I was interested in your publication of the conclusions which emerged from the recent Kellogg Company press conference on breakfast. It appears that a reduction in breakfast consumption is due to an increase in the number of working mothers and that children foregoing breakfast are prone to poor scholastic attainment.

Earlier studies in which I was involved do not support these opinions. For example, a comparison of a random selection of 276 schoolchildren with working mothers and 204 schoolchildren whose mothers remained at home revealed that 76.8 per cent of the former group and 83.3 per cent of the latter group consumed breakfast. This difference of only 6.5 per cent. A statistical examination of associations between the presence or absence of breakfast and the different levels of scholastic performance showed that none was significant. Breakfast is an important meal but, in some cases, the effects of its exclusion may be compensated somewhat by food purchased en route to school.

Last year, the unit published a study of schoolchildren in the North of England. This revealed that the only significant group of children who were accustomed to the lack of a breakfast meal related to those who received free school lunches as a consequence of financial hardship. In the home these children alone were significantly associated with below average scholastic performance. An interesting feature emerged when the association of free school lunches and poor scholastic attainment was studied according to whether children did or did not qualify for free school milk. The association with poor scholastic performance was obtained in the sub-group of children consuming school milk but it persisted among those children who did not. Yours faithfully,
G. W. LYNCH,
43 Lonsdale Road,
Barnes, SW13,
June 27.

Balance-sheet of EEC membership

From Mr Douglas Jay, MP for Wandsworth, Battersea North (Labour)
Sir, In your columns on June 4 Sir Con O'Neill and others appear to argue, either, that because the cost of the Common Agricultural Policy to the United Kingdom's balance of payments cannot be exactly measured, it can be treated as negligible; or alternatively that there is a budgetary saving to set against it. The latter having largely illusory because our EEC budgetary net contribution has to be paid instead; and some of us would rather pay to keep food prices down than to push them up. But it is the cost to our balance of payments, and the raising of our labour costs, which really matter.

To argue that an extreme protectionist and restrictive regime does not normally raise prices of imports above what they would otherwise be is to fly in the face of all common sense. First, if it were true that world prices of the main foods were not normally lower than EEC prices, there would be no need for any of the CAP protectionist barriers. Why not abolish them? Secondly, since production costs of most staple foods are lower for physical or climatic reasons in North and South America and Australasia than in Western Europe, prices must normally be lower if supplies from these low-cost producers are admitted freely.

Thirdly, the empirical evidence shows beyond dispute that world prices of most relevant cases are now much lower. John Cherrington, Agricultural Correspondent of the Financial Times, in that paper on May 27 described the statement that there are no longer any supplies of food from the world today as being "so far from the truth as to be nonsense". It is not mainly sugar, as Sir C. O'Neill seems to imply (though even here there is a cost, but grain, meat and dairy products which matter to the UK balance of payments. In the case of beef, imports from our main non-EEC suppliers, Australia and Argentina, have been almost wholly excluded by the EEC for two years. The result was expressed thus by the President of the Institute of Meat on May 31: "British consumers are paying twice as much as they should for beef. . . . While we have to charge in excess of £1 a lb for top-side, Australia would happily put it on our plate for 50p a lb or less" (Financial Times, June 1).

In the case of grain, wheat carry-over stocks at the start of 1977/78 in the five main exporting countries are at their highest for seven years (International Wheat Council, April 27). The Chicago price for March 1978 wheat is given by the FT (May 27) as £57 per tonne, while the average price in London (after EEC net levies) was £96.50—a 70% charge on the most basic of all foods. For maize and barley, the prime feeding stuffs for British agriculture, the excess is not far different. It is largely the EEC tax on feeding stuffs (euphemistically called a "strike in costs") which has caused the crisis in the British pig industry. For dairy products, the EEC Commission's own Agricultural Report for 1975/76 gives the EEC butter price on average in that year as 330% of the world price—more than three times as high. At present, according to John Cherrington (May 27), the butter intervention price in the UK is £1.315 a tonne, before the subsidy, the return to the New Zealand producer £830 a tonne—and the average world price in the Continental EEC from £1,500 to £1,800. Recent sales by the EEC to Russia and elsewhere, now resumed, are reported as being at a price of about £400 a tonne—presumably the world price! In general, the EEC has lowered consumption and therefore this country's real living standards.

In addition, quite apart from food, Britain's visible trade balance with the EEC Six in goods other than food and oil has worsened by about £1,200 million a year between 1970 and 1976; while in the same period the same balance with the rest of the world improved by about £2,300 million. This is mainly due to a huge rise in imports of manufactures from the EEC. The two prime needs of British economic policy are: (1) to import raw materials and food at low prices, and (2) to restrain imports of manufactured consumer goods.

The Church's teaching

From Mr H. Hyslop
Sir, It seems to be an established principle today that those who remain to the end of their lives Roman Catholics are not entitled to express their views in public. Nevertheless, I will try again, and this with reference to the letters of Dr Hemming and Professor Root (June 1).

The strange thing, to my mind, about the letter of Dr Hemming, is the way in which he places the hazardous opinions of undergraduates, schoolgirls, first communists, etc., exactly on a par with the teaching of Popes, Councils and the historical Church. Unless the schoolgirls, etc., agree with the Pope, the Pope's opinion is only one among others. But Catholicism has always consisted, not in making up one's own religion, or one's own dogma, but in conforming one's judgment to that of the Church. To make up one's own religion and call it Catholicism is to impose upon mankind.

As to the letter of Professor Root, it is much concerned with the distinction, invented (I believe) in the 17th century, between fundamental and non-fundamental articles of faith. But one fundamental article of faith has always been that the Church in the full sense is one communion, and that God can be trusted to keep it from doctrinal error. It is hard to think that this is accepted by those who insist upon the right to dissent in all that strikes them as secondary. But, if they do not accept it, they do not agree in fundamentals. I do not say with orthodox Catholics, but even with the teaching of the Fathers. It is points such as these, and the constant failure to face them, which give rise to the widespread

EEC membership now forces us to do just the reverse in each case. On these conditions, price and pay restraint and full economic recovery for the UK are impossible. Either the EEC must abolish the CAP; or we must leave the EEC. Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS JAY,
House of Commons,
June 8.

Contribution to peace

From the Bishop of Chichester and the Bishop of Manchester
Sir, As we approach the second anniversary of the referendum on Britain's membership of the EEC it is worth recalling some of the vision which many people had in giving that decisive vote. It is easy to lose that vision amidst the many economic problems which, though they existed at the time of the referendum, have since then been allowed to obscure all other aspects of the matter.

The European Community is an important contribution to world peace. Armed conflict between its members which has torn the world apart twice in this century is now unthinkable. As members of the Community the component states are able to do more for the cause of social justice and the relief of need in Europe than they could do separately. As members of the Community they are able to make a more substantial and positive contribution to the developing countries of the world than they could do separately.

If these positive purposes are to be developed to the full it is important that the political institutions of the Community and its ability to take decisions be strengthened. Britain has already contributed to the development of the authority of the European Parliament by procedural innovations. It would be a tragedy if we were now to turn our back on all this and abandon the spiritual and cultural heritage that we share with the other nations of the European Community and together can bring to the service of international order, justice and peace. Yours faithfully,
ERIC CICESTRY,
PATRICK MANCHESTER,
June 3.

CAP effects

From Mr Geoffrey Denton
Sir, Mr Richard Body (June 2) examines in some detail the consequences of a situation this year in which wheat prices protected under the EEC's common agricultural policy are higher than those in world markets. His analysis of the consequences for the prices of feeding-stuffs and the economics of pig raising is impressive, and would be widely agreed among critical supporters of the common market, including the Brussels Commission. But his sweeping condemnation of the CAP ignores many important considerations.

Most notably, he refers not at all to the vital question of security of supply at reasonably stable prices, which is the over-riding necessity both for our consumers and for our farmers. If wheat prices on world markets were to rise again without renewed shortages, we would have agreed to higher prices than now if we had allowed EEC production to be drastically reduced in order to obtain the benefit of bargain lots on world markets this year. Even worse, we might not be able to obtain adequate supplies at any price.

An important reason for the UK's excessive dependence on imports, from which so many of our economic difficulties have derived, is the adoption in the nineteenth century, alone among the European nations, of the policy of removing protection from British farmers and allowing cheap wheat and other products to flood the British market. There may have been a case for abolishing the Corn Laws when Britain was the world's leading industrial exporter, but does Mr Body really want to recommend, in the much harsher world economic climate of the 1970s, that the EEC should incur the same risks of losing its economic independence? Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY DENTON,
11 Oakhill Avenue, NW3,
June 2.

Old Morris workshop

From Mr D. Murray
Sir, While welcoming your report in today's *The Times* (June 3) concerning the application currently before the City Council to demolish Lord Nuffield's early twentieth century purpose built motor workshop in Longwall Street, Oxford, may I amplify two points. The importance of its associations lie in the fact that, in his building in the shadow of the medieval city wall, W. R. Morris conceived and built the prototype of the first Morris car, before the necessary move to Cowley in 1913. For better or for worse, this act transformed Oxford. Secondly the Planning Committee agreed that a sound approach would be the retention of the frontage building, not just its facade. The frontage building contained W. R. Morris's office and workshop and has an independent structure to the vast hire garage behind it. Facade retention, while useful in preserving townscapes, has little value in the more positive task of conserving buildings of architectural or historical interest. Yours faithfully,
D. MURRAY, City Architect and Planning Officer,
City of Oxford,
St Aldate's Chambers,
109-113 St Aldate's,
Oxford,
June 3.

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204 Marylebone Road, London NW1

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

PLANNING A NEW WAREHOUSE?
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rench state will like strategic bird of Dassault ircraft capital

Charles Hargrove
June 8
Giscard d'Estaing told a meeting today that he would take a blocking of the capital of the aircraft industry as part of an overall policy plan, which limited to this morning approval.

The plan includes consolidation of Airbus programme, in addition with its partners in Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, West Germany and construction of a new aircraft, equipped with the CFM 56, 10-ton jet built by the Spéciale Générale d'Aviation. The plan also includes the construction of a new aircraft, equipped with the CFM 56, 10-ton jet built by the Spéciale Générale d'Aviation. The plan also includes the construction of a new aircraft, equipped with the CFM 56, 10-ton jet built by the Spéciale Générale d'Aviation.

tail sales below forecast pite tourist boom

Vyn Westlake
April proved to be smaller than expected, according to revised figures of retail sales, published yesterday by the Department of Trade. The figures showed that the volume of purchases for the month was only marginally above the March level, the weakest months for retail sales in many years. The figures also showed that the volume of purchases for the month was only marginally above the March level, the weakest months for retail sales in many years.

RETAIL SALES

The following are the seasonally adjusted figures for the volume of retail sales and value of new instalment credit released by the Department of Trade:

		Percentage change latest 3 months on previous 3 months at annual rate	New credit
	Sales by 1970=100		
1976 Q1	107.3	+6.2	844
Q2	107.6	+1.1	875
Q3	108.9	+4.9	915
Q4	108.5	-1.5	872
1977 Q1	105.0	-12.3	1,020
1976			
Jan	108.8	-1.1	291
Feb	108.8	-2.9	292
Mar	107.3	+1.1	292
Apr	108.8	+2.6	291
May	108.9	+5.1	305
Jun	108.9	+4.9	319
Jul	108.1	+3.8	310
Aug	108.2	+1.5	332
Sep	108.3	-1.5	330
1977			
Jan	106.7	-2.1	324
Feb	106.7	-6.6	342
Mar	103.1	-11.8	354
April	103.4	-3.8	355

The figures show that France houses and retailers advanced £355m in new instalment credit agreements in April (seasonally adjusted). Within this total, lending by finance houses was lower than in March but similar to February, whereas lending by retailers showed an increase over previous months.

Three strikes threaten production at Leyland

By Clifford Webb
Three strikes threatened the 10-week-old "peace" at Leyland car factory which has enabled the state-controlled company to make a promising comeback in the home market since April to 25.9 per cent last month.

Five thousand workers were laid off at Leyland, stopping all production of "Mini" and "Allegro" cars. The shutdown followed a walkout by 200 electricians, protesting at the introduction of contract labour during last week's holiday break. They are planning to return today but there are fears of a further walkout if the company insists on using more contractors.

A strike at Rover appears to be more serious and could lead to a shutdown of Leyland production at a time when Leyland is planning a large expansion programme for this big car maker. Some 150 welders at the Leyland Rover chassis plant in Garrison Street, Birmingham, walked out when other welders were transferred to the main chassis line, where they were already operating an overtime ban in protest at working conditions.

A Leyland spokesman said: "There are no lay-offs at present but clearly without further supplies of bodies we shall soon have to stop the assembly line and that could be a serious setback when we have all been working so hard to recover from the disasters of the toolmakers' strike."

About 80 engine assembly men walked out yesterday in protest at the Leyland factory at Barchingham, West Lothian. A company spokesman said that on Tuesday the assembly workers "failed to agree to a management request to maintain output by redeploying men from other jobs which were unfilled because of absenteeism."

Edward Townsend writes: British Leyland's major sales recovery last month is confirmed by the latest new car registration figures. In a total when the home car market rose by 2.4 per cent on a year earlier to a total of 123,486, Leyland sold 31,986 units and Ford 32,943, which included 7,914 General built models.

The May figures, issued by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, show that imports took 41.9 per cent of the market, with sales of £1,833. Ford was the leading importer with 6.5 per cent.

Call to reverse US ruling on Japan penalties

Washington, June 8.—The Justice Department today asked an appeals court in Washington to overturn an "erroneous and ambiguous" lower court ruling that would force the Government to impose penalties on a range of Japanese electronic products.

At the same hearing Zenith Radio, of Chicago, argued that the lower court's decision should be upheld, because, as a matter of law, the Government must assess duties to offset certain taxes remitted by Japan to its exporters on shipments of about \$1,900m (about £1,118m) a year in television sets, radios and other products.

Subjects to be covered include projects, corporate finance, insurance, and reinsurance, the development of a capital market, gold, foreign exchange and commodities.

Borthwick in bid move for Matthews

By Adrienne Gleeson

Thomas Borthwick, the meat trading group, has approached Matthews Holdings, the retail butchers, essences and flavourings group, with a request for talks which may lead to a bid.

Mr Raymond Bloye, chairman of Matthews and also of Crystal Palace Football and Athletic Club, said yesterday that the approach, which has been made last Thursday, came after earlier talks. He thought that this time it might be "the beginning of something big".

Matthews, which is still involved in negotiations over the transfer from Crystal Palace of ground at Selhurst Park worth £275,000, in settlement of debts owed by the football club to the meat wholesaler FMC, which is its result, is due to announce its results next week.

Mr Bloye said yesterday that he thought shareholders would not be disappointed with the results. Matthews' shares gained 5p to 48p yesterday, while those of Borthwick dropped 1p to 93p.

Borthwick, under the chairmanship of Dr Bill Bullen, obtained a public quotation for its shares last year, and with a hard-fought, but abortive bid for FMC, has hardly been out of the news since then.

Borthwick's merchant bankers, Morgan Grenfell, said yesterday that this bid had been on the cards for some time. It had been under consideration while the group had been negotiating for the purchase of the meat wholesaler FMC, which eventually went to the NPU Development Trust, a big stockholder, in a bid worth rather less than Borthwick offered.

The logic of the bid for Matthews, he said, lay in the link-up with its manufactured products business—meat pies and the like—roughly comparable in size to that of Borthwick as well as in the tie-up with the retail butchers business which, while labour-intensive, also produced a high cash flow.

It also applied in the similarities between the hydraulic animal proteins business of Matthews subsidiary, Barnett & Foster, and the business Borthwick had acquired when it took over Midland Cattle Products in the autumn of last year.

Mr Bloye, who has a 5 per cent stake in Matthews—there are no other large holdings—said yesterday that as yet there has been no discussion over the price Borthwick would have to pay.

Matthews recently sold a 33 per cent stake in its French subsidiary, Boucherie Bernard SA (now an associate), for approximately £2.6m, and the proceeds so far received have been used in reducing the group's debt.



Mr Raymond Bloye (left) and Dr Bill Bullen.



Dr Bill Bullen.

Price cuts of up to 20pc set pace in High Street war Tesco changes course with larger stores and a quieter image

By Derek Harris

Commercials Editor
Tesco Stores, Britain's number one grocery multiple chain, yesterday made good its threat to set off a High Street price war, following its decision to cut a 44-year-old policy of giving Green Shield trading stamps.

A new company image, more restrained than the brash robustness associated with the earlier days of Tesco's founder, Sir John Cohen, was also unveiled, with plans to speed up the closure of older, smaller Tesco stores.

Tesco is bringing in price cuts largely of between 6 per cent and 15 per cent on 100 of the best-selling items, including fresh meat, coffee, breakfast cereals, butter, margarine, soft drinks, biscuits, frozen foods, dog food and bread. But there will be a few "eye-catchers" cuts of more than 20 per cent.

On another 900 lines there will be price cuts of between 6 per cent and 3 per cent. Some of the price cuts are in Tesco's "Home N Wear" in-store outlets which sell a range of goods including clothing, footwear and domestic electrical appliances, including large items like refrigerators.

Packs of five women's tights, for instance, are down from 118p to 85p, Polaroid Swinger colour cameras from £129.50 to £112.50 and Rowena-made Snowmax refrigerators from £55 to £49.95.

First indications last night were that with the 100 deeper-cut items, Tesco would be highly competitive with its prices. Sainsbury, which has claimed Tesco is 3 per cent more expensive overall, is being undercut on some nationally branded goods, but this may not cause them too much alarm because their main strength is in low-price own-label items.

Tesco is closely competitive in its 100 prices with Key Markets which, like Sainsbury, does not give trading stamps.

The question of how far to march Tesco's new image—red, white and blue—is its new colour scheme, but those luminous red colours have "gone"—is largely an attempt to extend up market into a richer pickings area where companies like Sainsbury and Waitrose (the John Lewis Partnership grocery chain) have been doing well.

It sees its future with new, bigger stores of between 25,000 square feet and 90,000 square feet. There is 1.5 million square feet of new store area being built in a two-year programme, and this rate of expansion is expected to continue.

But Mr MacLaurin indicated yesterday that 160 smaller food stores now had a limited future, as Tesco speeded up its plans for getting out of this type of outlet.

Some of the smaller supermarkets are also likely to be closed progressively or switched to non-grocery selling.

Sainsbury point out that their own label products are considerably cheaper than nationally advertised branded goods. A spokesman for Waitrose said they had their own basic shopping basket of 40 items on which they did their best not to be undercut by competitors.

Selective action to meet the increased price competition will be taken by Fine Fare, said a spokesman. It had only 40 stores in direct competition with Tesco and would not want to alter prices in all its stores solely to match the Tesco campaign.

drop from around 15 per cent to around 10 per cent.

On the other hand it is among those companies in the sector with better trading profit figures, with a wage-sales ratio of around 8 per cent that is markedly better than some other sector companies. In grocery, wages usually account for at least 50 per cent of operating costs.

Tesco's stepping away from its old red-and-white image—red, white and blue—is its new colour scheme, but those luminous red colours have "gone"—is largely an attempt to extend up market into a richer pickings area where companies like Sainsbury and Waitrose (the John Lewis Partnership grocery chain) have been doing well.

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CBI facing growing pay dissent

By Malcolm Brown

More companies are questioning the sense of a third phase of pay policy.

An official of the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday that many small companies had been in favour of a return to free collective bargaining for some time. Now, as the figures discussed in the debate over the third phase became higher, some of the bigger companies were starting to talk of an end to pay levels set by the Government.

The dissenting companies are expected to make their views known at a meeting of the CBI's grand council next Wednesday.

It is most unlikely that the pressure from these companies will move the CBI leadership from its determination to push for a third phase. But the confederation is ready to announce any third phase agreement which it judges would give labour more money than unrestrained bargaining would do.

The CBI's feeling is that a realistic phase three is essential as a prelude to the reform of pay bargaining which the confederation is now arguing for.

The confederation's ideas on reform were laid out in a discussion document, *The Future of Pay Determination*, published last week.

This examines radical changes, including the compression of the annual pay round into a period of three months.

The rationale of the dissenting companies at the CBI is that the present talks on pay could result in pay rises in the range of 15 to 20 per cent, while unfettered negotiations could keep rises well below these levels.

Austria boosts bank rate to 5.5 pc

Vienna, June 8.—Austria's National Bank today announced an increase in bank rate from 4 per cent to 5.5 per cent and a rise in the Lombard rate from 4.5 per cent to 6 per cent. Bank rate last changed on June 10, 1976, when it was cut from 5 to 4 per cent.

Nube fights for a foot in Abbey's staff door

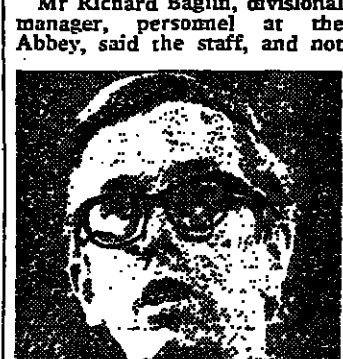
A union recognition battle is under way at the Abbey National, second biggest of the building societies. The National Union of Bank Employees has lodged a recognition claim under section II of the Employment Protection Act. Meanwhile plans are moving ahead for the formation of a non-TUC staff association among the Abbey's 5,000 employees.

The union is anxious to secure recognition at the Abbey as part of its recruitment drive among the largely non-unionized 30,000 building society employees throughout Britain.

Mr Leif Mills, general secretary of Nube, yesterday met Abbey National management and urged them not to recognize any staff association until the union's section II application is resolved. The claim could result in a ballot or some other test of employee opinion by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

Mr Mills said last night: "We trust that societies will take a long-term look at staff representation and at the benefits of dealing with a professional trade union, and not take the short-term palliative of recognizing internal staff associations."

Mr Richard Baglin, divisional manager, personnel at the Abbey, said the staff, and not



Mr Leif Mills, general secretary of Nube, sees staff associations as short-term palliative.

the society, were forming a staff association. He did not know how employees would feel about awaiting the findings of Nube's recognition claim.

Mr Alan Dunstan, a leading member of a 22-strong working party set up in April to investigate future staff representation, said a ballot of employees yielded a 75 per cent vote in favour of setting up negotiating machinery of some sort. A majority of the working party had voted in favour of internal bargaining machinery as against recognizing Nube.

He claimed that 2,000 employees had indicated their willingness to join a staff association. "Building society people are perhaps rather laid in their outlook towards industrial relations and the attitude has been that they would prefer an in-house organization run by themselves."

The working party meets again next Tuesday when a decision might be taken formally to set up a staff association. The question of recognition will then have to be discussed with management.

Christopher Thomas

French may reprocess fuel from Japanese reactors

By Roger Vielvoye

Energy Correspondent
Delays in signing a contract for Britain and France to reprocess 3,300 tons of spent nuclear fuel from Japan may lead to the Japanese concluding a separate agreement with the French company, Compagnie Générale des Matières Nucleaires (Cogema).

The contract was due to have been signed on May 24. But with a lengthy inquiry about to start into British Nuclear Fuels plans to expand the Windscale reprocessing facilities in Cumbria to cope with its share of the Japanese contract, Britain has put off the signing ceremony.

British diplomats in Tokyo have been "seeking the views" of the Japanese Government over the delays. They have been reluctant to tell the Japanese directly that BNFL cannot sign the contract with the inquiry pending.

Japan, which uses enriched nuclear fuel from America for its reactors is facing its own difficulties over reprocessing in the light of President Carter's call for a moratorium on commercial reprocessing to reduce the danger of nuclear proliferation.

As the supplier of enriched uranium to Japan, the United States has the right under its sales contract to veto any plans for using the fuel it considers unsatisfactory.

Japan plans to begin its own reprocessing trials at the Tokai village plant, about 60 miles north-east of Tokyo next month, which will be the subject of a joint study by authorities in Japan and the United States.

Under the Government's plan up to 6,000 jobs will be lost in the industry over the next few years.

The MPs said a GEC-controlled company was not in the interests of the workers, the consumer or the public.

Even on the most pessimistic figures, the future for the turbine industry did not warrant such unnecessary and wholesale sacrifice of jobs, skills and design and research capacity. The plan would have a devastating effect on Tyneside and other areas where GEC had factories, it was claimed.

Two Labour MPs, Mr Mike Thomas, Newcastle East, and Mr Harry Cowans, Newcastle Central, have written to Mr Vazley, Secretary of State for Industry, warning him of the "devastating" effects that would result from a GEC-controlled national turbine generator company, a proposal that has won government support.

The letter, written after the Northern group of Labour MPs met union leaders in Newcastle yesterday, should arrive at the Department of Industry before Mr Vazley argues the case for the "GEC plan" at a meeting in London later today with the executive of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

The CSEU had rejected the idea of a merger between the turbine generator interests of GEC and its main competitor, C. A. Parsons, in favour of a tripartite group involving GEC with the National Enterprise Board and Parsons, jointly having at least a 51 per cent stake.

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the markets moved

The Times index: 183.88 -0.53
The FT index: 455.7 -2.1

THE POUND			
	Bank	buys	sells
Australia \$	1.61	1.56	
Austria Sch	13.50	20.50	
Belgium Fr	64.00	61.00	
Canada \$	1.84	1.79	
Denmark Kr	10.70	10.38	
Finland Mk	6.25	7.25	
France Fr	6.70	6.48	
Germany Dm	4.22	4.00	
Greece Dr	64.00	61.50	
Hong Kong \$	8.40	7.55	
Italy L	1545.00	1490.00	
Japan Yn	500.00	475.00	
Netherlands Gld	4.40	4.20	
Norway Kr	9.24	8.98	
Portugal Esc	68.25	64.75	
Spain Ptas	121.50	113.50	
Sweden Kr	7.85	7.50	
Switzerland Fr	4.46	4.24	
US \$	1.76	1.71	
Yugoslavia Dn	33.50	30.75	

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Gold gained \$0.75 to \$142.625. SDRs rose to \$145.50 on Wednesday, while SDRs were 0.675801. Commodities: Rantex index was at 1848.4 (previous 1830.0). Reports, pages 20 and 22

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£220m oil refinery on Cromarty Firth given planning approval

By Ronald Faux

Approval of the master plan for an oil refinery complex at Nigg Point on the Cromarty Firth was given by the planning and development committee of the Highland Regional Council in Inverness yesterday.

The project by Cromarty Petroleum, an American company owned by Mr. D. K. Ludwig, is for a £220m refinery, marine terminal and associated storage able to receive 20 million tonnes a year, or 400,000 barrels a day of crude oil from the North Sea fields. Half would be shipped out as crude, and the remainder processed.

Cromarty Petroleum's plan, which will come before the full council on July 14, has been produced six months after the company acquired the final stretch of shoreline which had separated the 650-acre site from the sea.

The company said yesterday that the faster-than-expected rate of North Sea production and significant new elements which had emerged since the planning authority first gave outline consent to the project, had required changes to the plan.

These included a crude oil stabilisation unit to handle crude arriving at the refinery by pipeline. No firm proposal for linking Nigg to any of the North Sea fields by pipeline had yet been put, but certain developments made this a possibility.

The refinery would also have a sulphur reforming unit making it possible to produce the lighter distillates, including gasoline for which there was a growing market.

Mr Douglas Calder, director of planning for the region, said the main question raised at

yesterday's meeting, was over the timetable for the development. It was made clear that the whole project was conditional on the refinery being built before the associated oil storage facilities. This must be a refinery with oil storage, not an oil store with an associated refinery, he said.

Estimates of construction time put detailed engineering and building of the refinery at about three-and-a-half years; crude and product storage cavern systems in overlapping phases for final completion in nearly five years, and the marine facilities in stages totalling some four-and-a-half years.

The company hopes to start work by the end of this year. Construction manpower would build up rapidly after the first year to a peak of about 1,700.

Car imports 'counter' rebounds on UK small manufacturers

By Clifford Webb

New Ministry of Transport Type Approval Regulations introduced principally as "an indirect counter" to car imports could have serious implications for one sector of the British motor industry—the many small manufacturers of specialist cars.

Last night these companies claimed that unless the regulations are amended before they come into effect on October 1 they could put an end to this country's claim to be the world's leading manufacturer of specialist cars.

Mr Richard Cover, sales director of Panther Westwinds, the Blythe, Surrey, producer of hand-built £40,000 saloons and coupes, said: "We only build two of these cars a month but the new 'regs' will require us to crash test all four versions at a cost of around £20,000 each before they can be approved for further sale in this country."

"No company of our size can afford that sort of money. In going for this blanket coverage and introducing regulations similar to those already in force in Europe, Japan and America, the Government has forgotten that in America, for instance, they are prepared to give dispensations to small manufacturers—people who produce only a few hundred cars a year."

"In a nutshell it means that we shall have to drop a new car which has been under development for the last six months."

and refrain from selling some of our other models in Europe."

Panther, along with companies like Morgan of Malvern and TVR Engineering of Blackpool, have protested so vehemently that MPs are taking up their case and will be putting Commons questions.

A delegation of specialists has already interested Mr Robert Crier, a junior minister at the Department of Industry with responsibility for small companies, and he will visit Panther next week. Meanwhile his officials have opened talks with their opposite numbers at Transport.

A spokesman for the Department of Transport said last night: "We are currently engaged in talks with industry about this. The difficulty is to find a practical formula. If there is any question of a financial arrangement being made to assist the small manufacturers, then there would seem to be the responsibility of industry and not Transport."

Major motor manufacturers have long complained that the absence of type approval testing in this country has left us without a counter to overseas competitors—particularly Japan—whom they insist have used it to frustrate the introduction of new models.

The industry's premier trade body, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, served on the working party which helped to formulate the new regulations.

Further fall in rates on loans for industry

Further reductions in interest rates on loans made under the Industry Act, 1972, were announced by the Department of Industry yesterday.

The "concessional" rate of interest on loans for employment-creating projects is being cut immediately from 8½ per cent to 8 per cent while interest on loans for modernization projects goes down from 11½ per cent to 11 per cent. The rate of interest relief grant is also being reduced from 11½ per cent to 11 per cent.

Vosper gets £5m patrol boat order from Bahamas

Vosper Thornycroft, the specialist warship builders, has won a £5m order from the Bahamas government to supply five patrol craft for the Bahamas Defence Force.

Three of the five ships will be 60ft long, with glass reinforced plastic hulls. Four similar craft were supplied by the company to the same customer seven years ago.

The other two craft will be larger patrol vessels built in steel to a standard Vosper design. Thirty-six of this type have already been built or are under construction for six other overseas governments.

Vosper, which will be among the companies to be taken over by British Shipbuilders, the new state shipbuilding organization on July 1, is also involved in negotiations with the Kuwait government for a £100m order for the supply of 10 fast patrol vessels.

Negotiations have reached an advanced stage.

Italian aerial survey contract for Hunting

Hunting Geology and Geophysics of Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, has won a contract to undertake airborne magnetic surveys as part of a programme by Agip, part of ENI, the Italian state energy company, to locate uranium deposits in mountainous areas of northern Italy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Embassy aid to export effort

From Mr G. S. Planner

Sir, Various press reports recently have given the impression that our embassy staff abroad do not show interest or given assistance to companies engaged in exporting. There also exists a Government report which proposes a reduction in our embassy staff and facilities.

As most of my business life has been spent in exporting, particularly to the socialist countries, I must defend wholeheartedly the contribution made to our export achievements by our ambassadors and the commercial sections of our embassies. Over the years my staff

and I have received excellent advice and practical help on every occasion on which we have requested assistance. All too often the embassies are brought into discussions on problems too late; some businessmen take the view that the embassy role is simply to help them in case of trouble.

The many experienced and hard-working export sections will, I know, be full of praise for the cooperation they receive, often from an overworked and understaffed embassy and to think that these excellent facilities may be even further reduced must cause most exporters seriously to doubt wisdom of those making decisions.

Our existence as a trading nation depends on our export trade and every possible assistance that the Government give, whether it is directly in London or through our embassies abroad or any other assistance, must be of paramount importance.

Yours sincerely,
GORDON S. PLANNER,
General Manager,
Eastern Export Operations,
Rank Xerox Limited,
Westbourne Grove, W2,
London, W2 8RH.

Nuts and bolts of Copyright Act

From Mr M. C. Dobbs

Sir, As readers of Business News are aware, the Copyright Act 1956 is being used to reassert a monopoly in the supply of spare parts for their products. This monopoly in the supply of spare parts such as a square baseplate of a machine tool is one of the reasons for the departmental committee under Mr Justice Whitford was appointed.

The report of this committee was recently published. The basis on which its recommendations are based is disturbing. Under the heading "General Approach," the Report says in paragraph:

"As we see it, the principal object of successive Acts has been the protection of those who produce original work against competitive copying, copying for a market in which the original maker of the work ought to have the exclusive right. Like the Copyright Committee, we approach the questions to be considered on the basis that, first and foremost, what has to be considered is this interest."

This may well be the correct approach where truly artistic works are concerned. But it is surely not the correct approach where mundane articles such as nuts and bolts, levers, and machine baseplates are concerned.

It is suggested that in the case of non-artistic articles the approach should be the following: when does the public interest in the freedom of trade and manufacture of members of the public to be arrested for the benefit of an individual? It was NOT the intention of the draughtsmen of the present Act that mundane functional articles should be the subject of artistic copyright: this has happened as the result of an unexpected interpretation by the courts of a passage in the present Act.

It is to be hoped that the removal of this defect in the present Act will not be jeopardized by an approach clearly suitable for truly artistic works, but quite clearly inappropriate for mundane functional articles of no artistic significance whatsoever.

M. C. DOBBS,
Michael Dobbs & Co,
3 Sandpit Road,
Essex CM7 7LY.

CBSA and banks nationalization

From Mr Wilfred Aspinall

Sir, I read with interest the article by Michael Hanfield (May 25) that the Labour Party policy makers were attempting to bury the motion of nationalising the banks and insurance companies. This is good news.

The CBSA has on a number of occasions made its position quite clear regarding this issue to the Labour Party and the press. We are opposed to nationalization of the clearing banks.

The CBSA, being the majority trade union in the English clearing banks with 66,000 members, does, however, regret that *The Times* made no mention of this union and that it would appear that the Labour Party will discuss the issue as it affects bank staff with minority representative unions.

Yours faithfully,
WILFRED ASPINALL,
General Secretary,
Council of Bank Staff Associations,
25 John Street,
London, WC1,
May 25.

Break in house buying chain

From Mr and Mrs C. Thornton

Sir, For a variety of reasons, including that of a healthy middle-class urge to move to a nicer house, we recently went through all the manoeuvres of trying to sell our house and buy another one. All the costly formalities necessary to buying the new house were completed: we were ready to buy. But then our "buyer" suddenly found he couldn't buy our house. Why? Because his buyer's buyer didn't want to buy any more.

So we can't buy the house we want because our buyer's buyer changed his mind. Nothing personal against that far-distant individual, but in one of the world's centres of finance, must such a whimsical system be accepted as inevitable? (In Scotland, or even the United States, they manage things differently, apparently removing the need for a succession of improbable coincidences to take place.)

Anybody for the Society for the Prevention of Miracles in Housebuying?
C. THORNTON,
SUSAN THORNTON,
48 Cromwell Avenue,
Highgate,
London N6.

Serious situation of delivery date

From Mr A. Tessier

Sir, Lady Robson might well right (June 1) and one of reasons for the failure to achieve an export-led boom the increased cost-burden placed upon industry by a long pound.

However, there is also a danger suggesting that industry at large is worried by the capacity, severely restricting companies are of capacity. Hence the surprisingly long delivery dates given by the majority of exporters and the slow growth of export. The situation is, therefore, more serious than suggests.

Lady Robson and again (5/1974) the pound was able to sink in spite of the fact export delivery dates have become longer and longer. Not only is it costly to let the exchange rate drop but it is also felt all it does is to make delivery dates longer still.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW TESSIER,
ITI Research,
185 Piccadilly,
London, W1V 0EE.

Index-linked home policies

From Mr J. D. Worthington

Sir, In his letter of May about the maintenance of a quota insurance cover on his hold properties and goods, I R. Valentine asks "my go window shopping once a to re-value everything?"

Answer is "no". A number of insurance companies already provide index-linked policies which cover effects of inflation. For example General Accident's new plan and new economy hold insurance policies amounts insured month month.

(1) For buildings, in line the Royal Institution of Surveyors' Housing Index.
(2) For contents, in line the Retail Price Index. Provided that the amounts insured are correct at the set and that adjustments made when any new item acquired, these policies will fully protect the policy by keeping the amounts insured in step with the rate of inflation.

J. D. WORTHINGTON,
Manager, Fire Department General Insurance and Assurance Corporation Ltd General Buildings,
Perth, Scotland, PH1 5TP.

Footwear exporters in Canada quota plea

By Derek Harris

The British Footwear Manufacturers Federation is to present evidence today to a Canadian government inquiry to try to avert a threat to Britain's rapidly growing exports of footwear to Canada.

In the wake of United States restrictions on foreign footwear imports, which take effect next month, Canada has been widely expected also to bring in import restrictions. The government inquiry is being held to assess whether restrictions are necessary and what form they should take.

While Britain's footwear exports to the United States have been static those to Canada are rising substantially. In 1969 British manufacturers exported 1 million pairs to Canada, but this penetration dropped to 632,000 in 1975. There was a climb back to 744,000 last year and exports have gone further ahead in the first four months of this year.

If the rate of exports can be maintained, British production going to Canada could be near the 1 million mark by the end of this year, according to the federation.

NCB regrets opencast site delays

By Roger Vielrope

Extended public inquiries into new opencast coal mining sites and long delays into reaching decisions contributed to a shortage of some domestic grades of Welsh anthracite last winter, Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board, said yesterday.

As a result, the coal trade had to import more than 80,000 tons of foreign anthracite. Sir Derek, opening a new opencast site at Coalfield Farm near Rbstock, Leicestershire, said the NCB needed a constantly updated programme of new opencast sites.

Extended inquiries and long delays on decisions have meant that replacement sites were not ready in time.

At present the NCB was producing 11.5 million tons of opencast coal from 50 sites, but to reach the target of 15 million tons a year by 1985, 70 or more sites would be needed. Last year's opencast production also saved oil which would have cost £370m to import. The rate of interest relief grant is also being reduced from 11½ per cent to 11 per cent.

Further fall in rates on loans for industry

By Ronald Emiler

Industry and commerce will learn tomorrow whether their pleas for better safeguards related to the Price Commission Bill, have been headed by Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

At meetings last week, both the Confederation of British Industry and the Retail Consortium told him his proposals were unacceptable and that he should retain, at minimum, the safeguards on basic profits contained in the present code.

Mr Hattersley promised to give serious consideration to their representations, and to meet them again before publishing a consultative document for next Wednesday's report stage of the Bill.

The CBI believes that Mr Hattersley's proposed safeguards could halve the protection given to some companies compared with those in operation, a move which would undermine confidence and investment, industrialists argue. The retailers have told Mr Hattersley that whatever safeguards are provided, will be seen by some as a guide to what the Government regards as a fair and reasonable profit margin until the new Price Commission establishes a corpus of precedent, and that as proposed they are far too low.

This wrangle over the safeguard clauses are only part of a continuing dilemma for Mr Hattersley centred on the new Price Commission. He has still to name the new chairman, and industry sources suggest that he is having an extremely difficult time in persuading anybody from the higher ranks of industry or commerce to fill the post.

It is now being suggested that final details of the safeguards are being awaited as they will indicate how savagely the Government expects the wide ranging powers of the new Commission to be used.

Once the package is known, then potential candidates will be able fully to assess the role of the new chairman. It is also being suggested that Mr Hattersley could be "generous" in granting safeguard provisions, because after an initial period there would be little difficulty in tightening them up.

Safeguards on profits decision awaited

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Scottish new town finds 750 more jobs

Negotiations are being completed with six companies to bring more than 700 jobs to Irvine new town on the Ayrshire coast, it was announced yesterday. Three companies are to move into purpose-built factories, providing 350 jobs, and a further three are to move into advanced factories, providing 400 jobs.

Some companies already there are planning to expand, providing at least another 100 new jobs.

Industries involved included engineering, printing, freightage, drinks, electronics, computers, and domestic equipment.

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Metal Box Preliminary Results

Sales exceed £700 million

Sir Alex Page, Chairman, reports:

"The general pattern of the year, both at home and overseas, was one of steady progress. This was reflected in output, investment, sales and profits. In most countries where the Group operates the industries which it serves passed out of the worst stages of the recession."

"In the United Kingdom, there was substantial growth in the demand for canned beverages, while canned food sales benefited from the high prices of fresh fruit and vegetables."

"Overseas, the Indian and Italian subsidiaries both recovered from the difficulties of the previous year."

"While demand continues to be satisfactory, a major handicap is the frustration felt about levels of pay among a number of employees, particularly skilled employees whose differentials have been eroded in the successive phases of incomes policy. This frustration has culminated in recent months in disruption to production in some of our factories."

	Year to March 1977 £000	Year to March 1976 £000
Sales		
Home	451,364	341,893
Overseas	256,809	182,595
	708,173	524,488
Profit before taxation		
Home	37,732	22,960
Overseas	19,941	10,046
	57,673	33,006
Profit after taxation	29,775	15,450
Interest of Metal Box Limited	30,033	14,623
Earnings per £1 ordinary stock unit	43.8p	23.7p
Total dividend per £1 ordinary stock unit	13.31p	12.1p

"The new organisation, introduced in the latter part of 1975, has settled down and is operating in an efficient and effective manner. I attained the age of 63 in July and therefore intend to give up the duties of Chief Executive after the Annual General Meeting, although I have acceded to a request from the Board to remain as Chairman. Therefore, on 1st August 1977 my responsibilities as chief executive will be assumed by Mr D. I. Allport who will be appointed Managing Director. Mr R. J. Frost, who has today been appointed a Director of the Company, will, on 1st August, succeed Mr Allport as Chairman and Chief Executive of Metal Box Packaging Limited."

Interest on borrowings and loan stocks amounted to £8.75 million. An interim dividend of 5.85p per £1 stock unit was declared on the ordinary stock of the Company and paid on 10th January 1977. The Directors recommend the payment of a final dividend for the year of 7.46p, such dividend to be payable on 22nd July 1977 to holders on the register on 24th June 1977.

With the related tax credits taken at 35/65ths of the amount of these two dividends, the dividends and tax credits, which together amount to 20.4789p, represent an increase of 10 per cent over the dividends and related tax credits for the previous year.

Should the rate of Advance Corporation Tax and of the tax credit attributable to the final dividend be reduced below 35/65ths, the Directors recommend that a supplementary dividend shall also be paid in respect of the year ended 31st March 1977 (subject to the Government's dividend limitation policy or with the authority of H.M. Treasury) equivalent, with the tax credit attributable thereto, to the amount of that reduction, payment to be made at such date and to the members on the register at such time as the Directors may determine.

Expenditure on fixed assets in the year at home and overseas was £33.8 million, which included £3.1 million arising on acquisitions.

Accounts for the year ended 31st March 1977 will be posted to stockholders on Monday 27th June 1977.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 21st July 1977 at The Dorchester, Park Lane, London W1 at 12.30 pm.



Metal Box
A good business to be in



BEARER-DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS

Following the DIVIDEND DECLARATION by the Company on 14 April 1977, NOTICE is now given that the following DISTRIBUTION will become payable to Authorised Depositaries on or after 10 June 1977 against presentation to the Depositary (as below) of Claim Forms (obtainable from the Depositary) listing Bearer Depositary Receipts.

Gross Distribution per Unit ... 5.00 cents
Less 15% US Withholding Tax ... 0.75 cents
4.25 cents per unit

Converted at \$1.7182 ... = £0.024735 per unit
At the Annual General Meeting held 12 May 1977 a five-for-four split of the capital stock of the Company was approved for payment on the 24 June 1977 to holders of record 24 June 1977. On or after the 24 June 1977, Bearer Depositary Receipts should lodge the existing Bearer Depositary Receipts for a stamping together with a covering letter of instruction (duplicate) detailing the denominations in which the a in lieu of fractions of units.

DEPOSITARY
National Westminster Bank Limited,
STOCK OFFICE SERVICES,
(2nd Floor),
41 LOTHBURY, LONDON, E.C.2
3 June 1977.

FINLAY PACKAGING LTD

(Printers, Manufacturers and Converters of Packaging Material)

The 21st Annual General Meeting of Finlay Packaging Ltd was held on 8th June in Belfast. Mr. R. N. D. Langdon, F. the Chairman, presiding. The following are extracts from Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1976:—

	1976	1975
Year ended 31st December		
Profit before tax	£483,573	£231,545
Taxation	£234,742	£119,805
Net profit after tax	£248,831	£111,740

ACCOUNTS: The company has achieved increased turnover the year and a record trading profit before taxation. Your tions consider it appropriate to recommend to stockholders increase, in the authorised share capital of the company a capitalisation issue from reserves on a one for one basis.

TRADING CONDITIONS: The recession and uncertain c tions in industry, along with continuing inflation and control, increase the pressure on profit ratios. It is impo to forecast over the next period, when our major customer preparing for changing laws on full integration into the t

EDITOR
Port of London

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Crystal gazing at Metal Box

Many other thriving but mature firms, Metal Box is approaching the stage where it could become a victim of success.

On the evidence of yesterday's jump in profits from a depressed £33m to £40m, its obvious confidence in its prospects there is still plenty of room in the mainstream packaging industry despite an excellent record on innovation, moves into new casing as with the acquisition of Venesta areas expansion like the Nigerian tile factory, Metal Box is still tied to the packaging cycle.

It can look optimistically at certain points—expansion of take-home sales could double the demand for its products, but only too well aware that in the market could be reached in five years.

Investment path has already been chosen by the United States groups. Can and Continental have halved their share to under a third of its sales over the past five years. But if it hopes to achieve its aim of getting its sales away from packaging next three years, it will need to make a sizeable acquisition.

Investment move is shaping up to be a difficult market; it now is for a tenth of Metal Box's sales. It is hard to see finding another like Ideal Standard's European

Estate and following the sale of its majority interest in the Victoria shopping centre Nottingham.

At 34p, up \$1p since the sale, the shares could now stand in line with the group's new asset value. But when the initial enthusiasm for the shares wears off it will be difficult for this price to be sustained without a clear view of the group in its post-disposal form. MEPC, which yesterday reported pre-tax profits for the half-year up from £1.5m to £3.97m is also attractive support, which is more enthusiastic than reasoned.

The shares held on to earlier gains at 89p on the half-year figures, helped by the prospect of a better than nominal dividend this year.



Sir Gerald Thorley, MEPC chairman.

Much if not all of this half-year's improvement at MEPC relates to loss-elimination, particularly in housebuilding. Net of all capitalized charges the underlying improvement is from a revenue loss of £1.39m to a loss of £249,000, a creditable improvement but not yet a sign of blooming health.

Ungranted overseas tax losses keep the tax charge at over the 60 per cent, and as a 1p dividend would cost MEPC £1m, shareholders can hardly expect more than that this year, although for the group to maintain institutional support they can also hardly expect less.

Elimination of United Kingdom housebuilding losses; completion of the Kabala Hilton sale; successful completion of the £28m Frankfurt development; talks for the £28m sale of the Canadian subsidiary and reversionary growth running at around £2m a year at home weigh one side of the equation in MEPC's favour. But the residual share of the group may not be quite as appealing as the steady elimination of problems implies.

The Exchange Centre development in Sydney, problems letting the Manhattan Centre in Brussels and the £2m a year holding costs of the Munich development sites give three good reasons for caution. MEPC's shares stand at around a 40 per cent discount to fully-diluted assets a rating that takes adequate allowance of the difficulties overcome so far.

fast is the very?

often overcomes fact in the property sector. And the fashion cycle is now going furiously from the survival stage recovery and back into the growth stage. Before property shares again the indiscriminate heroes of investors it is worth trying to see what and what is fashion in the recovery stage.

al & Counties and MEPC, two stocks currently in danger of going into this heroic stage, provide examples of the fashion cycle run-way with itself. As we said 10 days ago, PC's shares would be chased up to 30s on the sale of the Knightsbridge

m for the genuine investor

lies sometimes turn out to be the stages. Thus, the chairman of the City's most highly regarded fund, J. & J. Scrimgeour, in an of the circumstances giving up of an application for money, implies a small sum in interest foregone.

Since the commission which the broker obtains will be based on the amount raised rather than the amount subscribed for, he has little interest in encouraging the stage—no more, at any rate, than is sufficient to see the issue off well enough to please those who have subscribed without alienating his clients into wondering whether they have offered terms too favourable for their money.

The fact remains, though, that the small investor—the genuine investor—comes poorly out of any such arrangement. That, in the case of the Sunderland issue, he can "pick up" stock at a price less than he would have subscribed for, he is able to see an accident of fortune rather than an adequate justification for the system.

So the question which arises is whether, in the case of such local authority issues—which are likely to become much more frequent in the months ahead—there is not a case for abandoning the old convention of offering the stocks partly paid. That might make for a rather less buoyant start on the market. But it would at least provide the genuine investor with a more equal opportunity to place his funds to maximum advantage.

The cost of servicing the smaller applications is, of course, a further consideration for the issuing authority, so is the time involved—two or three days, perhaps, which for an investor who has sent in 10 per cent of an application for money, implies a small sum in interest foregone.

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The coal gasification development plant at Westfield, Fife.

Can coal plug the gap when natural gas runs out?

Looking across the Atlantic at the "troubled" natural gas industry in the United States is a sobering exercise for executives of the British Gas Corporation. Once plentiful gas reserves are now dwindling and the utilities that provide a third of the country's energy needs are now casting around, not particularly successfully, for alternative supplies.

The gas supply in the United States is rapidly becoming critical. In most parts of the country it is impossible to get gas for new homes and factories. Last winter's severe weather, when some utilities were unable to meet demands, exposed the shortcomings of the gas industry.

Utilities are now looking everywhere for new supplies. Gas produced in association with oil in the North Sea is one possibility. Last week's severe weather, when some utilities were unable to meet demands, exposed the shortcomings of the gas industry.



Mr Ray Sharman, director of the British Gas International Consultancy Service: Warnings from the United States.

In many ways Britain in the 1970s is now like the United States of the 1950s before gas started to become scarce. Ample domestic reserves are available mainly from the North Sea. Supplies are still cheap compared with other fuels, and gas continues to build up an increasing share of the national market.

"When we look at the United States, we could be looking at our own future," said Mr Ray Sharman, head of the British Gas International Consultancy Service. But the lesson appears to have been learned and British Gas is taking out an insurance policy against the day when the North Sea reserves begin to run out.

It is an insurance policy based on producing gas from coal, and one that could be capable of a large contribution towards solving the American gas supply difficulties.

The United States has vast reserves of coal, probably enough to last two or three

hundred years, much of it suitable for being turned to gas. And the use of coal to make gas would certainly fit neatly into the evolving United States energy strategy.

President Carter announced in his energy message that he would like to see coal consumption in the United States doubled. All that stands in the way of coal becoming a major feedstock for the gas industry is the difficulty of producing a gas compatible with the natural gas that will still continue to flow through the extensive United States pipeline network for many years to come.

Technology for producing gas from coal is well established. But the end-product had a low heat value and cannot be mixed with the natural gas that is being produced. British Gas has now combined its expertise in the coal-gas making field with American money and come up with a process for producing synthetic natural gas from coal, that is compatible with natural gas.

Last week a consortium of American companies led by the Continental Oil Company, signed a \$24m contract with the American Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) to design a coal gasification plant for Eastern Ohio using technology developed in association with British Gas at Westfield in Scotland.

If the design is judged successful, ERDA will put up half the money for a \$250m demonstration plant that will use 3,800 tons of coal a day to produce 60 million cubic feet of synthetic natural gas. Private industry will fund the rest of the development and ERDA hopes that by putting funds into a project for the first time it will help to prove the commercial viability of the gas-making process and encourage gas utilities to build a series of much larger units across the United States.

British Gas will receive royalties on its technology used in these plants. But, Mr Sharman says, this is not the most important aspect of the deal with the United States. Once the techniques developed on a small scale at Westfield are turned into full-scale operating plants the technology will begin to advance.

Contracts signed with the Americans will ensure that any advances made on the basic techniques will be available to British Gas if and when it decided that a gas-from-coal plant is needed in the United Kingdom.

The most likely initial application in Britain of the technology is the device, gas called the name of a "slugging gasifier"—would be to help offshore gas supplies meet the peak winter demand. But it could come into its own at the end of the century when the offshore reserves will be well past their best.

At present coal prices, producing gas by this method could cost four or five times as

much as supplies from the North Sea. But in America, where the cost of coal is about one sixth that of deep-mined coal in the United Kingdom, the initial demonstration plant might be able to produce gas that was only twice as expensive as natural gas.

Of course, the "slugging gasifier" which is a more sophisticated development of the German Lurgi process for making town gas, is not the only process for coal gasification. The United States is pouring money into research, including plans for in-situ plants where the coal is gasified while it is still in the ground and only the gas is pumped out. But this is a technology that is a long way from being proved and it is unlikely to make any significant contribution to energy supplies before the end of the century.

The British gas industry's record in gas-making technology is impressive. In the 1950s it took and improved the German Lurgi coal gasification process. But before a large-scale programme of Lurgi plant building could be implemented, the gas industry had developed its catalytic rich gas (CRG) process to make gas from the plentiful supplies of cheap imported oil that were then available. In turn this was rapidly overtaken by the advent of natural gas from the North Sea.

CRG technology is already a best seller overseas. In the United States alone, 1,200 million cu ft of synthetic natural gas is produced daily by this process—the equivalent of the output of an extremely large natural gasfield. It has one major disadvantage—the oil feedstock—and this is the reason why the "slugging gasifier" may take over as the top technology royalty earner.

But paying insurance premiums on a technology that could provide a viable coal gas making process for the beginning of the next century may not be enough to prevent the gas industry from running into difficulties. Replacing its entire North Sea production would require more than 60 plants, consuming 96,000,000 tons of coal annually, which is only just short of the National Coal Board's 115,000,000 tons a year deep-mined coal output.

It is clear that long before the gas begins to run out the gas industry will have to reduce the number of its customers substantially, particularly those in industry whose claims to be premium users is doubtful.

Economic notebook

The investment boom may be a little late

Too little investment has often been blamed for Britain's slow growth and lack of competitiveness. The depth of the latest recession and the snail's pace of recovery has recently shifted the focus from industry's failure to build new factories and machines to their inability to use the full their existing capacity.

But private investment, with exports, is the hoped for engine of such growth as is expected in Britain this year and next. And more spending on investment is crucial for Britain's medium-term prospects.

Indeed discussion about North Sea oil usually centres on how to put aside for the future some of the once and for all boost to the nation's wealth, by investing rather than consuming the oil revenues. It usually ends with little more than pious hopes and crossed fingers that businessmen—helped by government—will find the opportunity, incentive and cash to spend in a way that they usually have not in the past.

At the moment the outlook is confused. Forecasters inside and outside the government expect a strong recovery in capital spending this year and in 1978. The timing differs: for example, the National Institute forecasts in their review last week, a 15 per cent pick up in real investment in 1977 over 1976, slowing to a 12 per cent rise next year, while the latest survey of investment intentions by the Department of Industry suggests that the 1978 upsurge will be twice as large as this year's rise.

But this survey was one of two pieces of recent official news which cast a shadow over the general optimism about short-term investment prospects. The survey of intentions shows a scaling down in manufacturers' plans for spending this year with a projected rise of 6 to 10 per cent in place of the 10 to 15 per cent predicted last autumn. There was a corresponding rise in spending plans reported for 1978, but that inevitably looks like jam tomorrow.

The other dampener was the sharp and unexpected fall in manufacturing investment shown in the preliminary figures for the first three months of this year.

Not much concern has yet been expressed about these two hints that business spending may not be as buoyant as hoped. One reason is simply scepticism about the accuracy of the official figures.

The figures for investment volume, are expressed in constant prices, which involves deflating back seven years to 1970 prices. Another reason is that other surveys of business plans are still bullish. These include the usually reliable CBI trends survey and the latest *Financial Times* survey of business opinion.

But perhaps the most important reason for believing in the present revival in investment volume is just that it has been so very low in the last two years.

After an unusually weak boom in manufacturing investment in 1973-74, there was an unprecedented sharp fall in 1975 and a further fall in 1976.

In 1976 the volume of capital spending in industry (manufacturing, distribution and services, and shipping) was the lowest since 1969. The private sector as a whole invested just 3 per cent more last year—in volume terms—than in 1976, and less than in any year since then.

Industry still has a wide margin of spare capacity on all the

usual measures. But the severity of the recession, and the steep and sudden fall in investment early in the cycle, makes these indicators unreliable.

Many of the schemes scrapped in 1975 as the slump and accompanying liquidity crisis hit British industry included plans for replacement investment. This suggests that a lot of the fixed capacity which is "spare" is in fact antiquated, and could not be used to expand production profitably.

And despite the sluggish growth in output now, and forecast for the near future, there has been a turnaround in business confidence this year which has encouraged managers to get their spending plans out of moth balls. Some at least of this is due to increased optimism about exports, which are now beginning to take a central place in companies' planning.

There are other factors in the improved business climate. Profits have recovered slightly from their sharp fall. A relaxed price code leaves room for more profitability.

There has been a definite improvement in the cash position of industry, although this is more because of the low level of activity than because of a boost in profits. It will probably last into next year, however, as the upturn in output continues. There is also a danger that some involuntary stock building is now taking place, which could lead to some second thoughts about planned expansion for next year.

A slight puzzle persists about the financing of industry's present buoyant spending plans. They cannot all be financed out of profits, and yet business demand for loans remains very flat.

This year's sharp fall in the cost of interest rates may encourage some more borrowing—or taking up of advances already arranged—and it certainly helps to cheer up business opinion. But it does not explain the level of capital spending planned for this year and next.

The cost of finance is usually of much less importance for businessmen's spending plans than the outlook for sales and profits. Its effect is especially difficult to forecast when the rate of inflation is high and variable, as at present. Negative real interest rates do not seem to encourage borrowers, not least because the inflation which causes them increases risk and uncertainty.

Which leads to one of the biggest imponderables about the future investment outlook. A renewed surge of cost inflation with a breakdown of pay restraint would hit at both profitability and confidence.

In the British battle between labour and capital for the returns on production, labour has been the victor in the 1970s. But the victory is a pyrrhic one, as the low profitability of British industry has undoubtedly contributed to its poor investment record in high and slow growth. And the investment needed to exploit the North Sea riches, and to provide at least some of the many jobs needed to bring down unemployment, will not be forthcoming without a sustained profits revival.

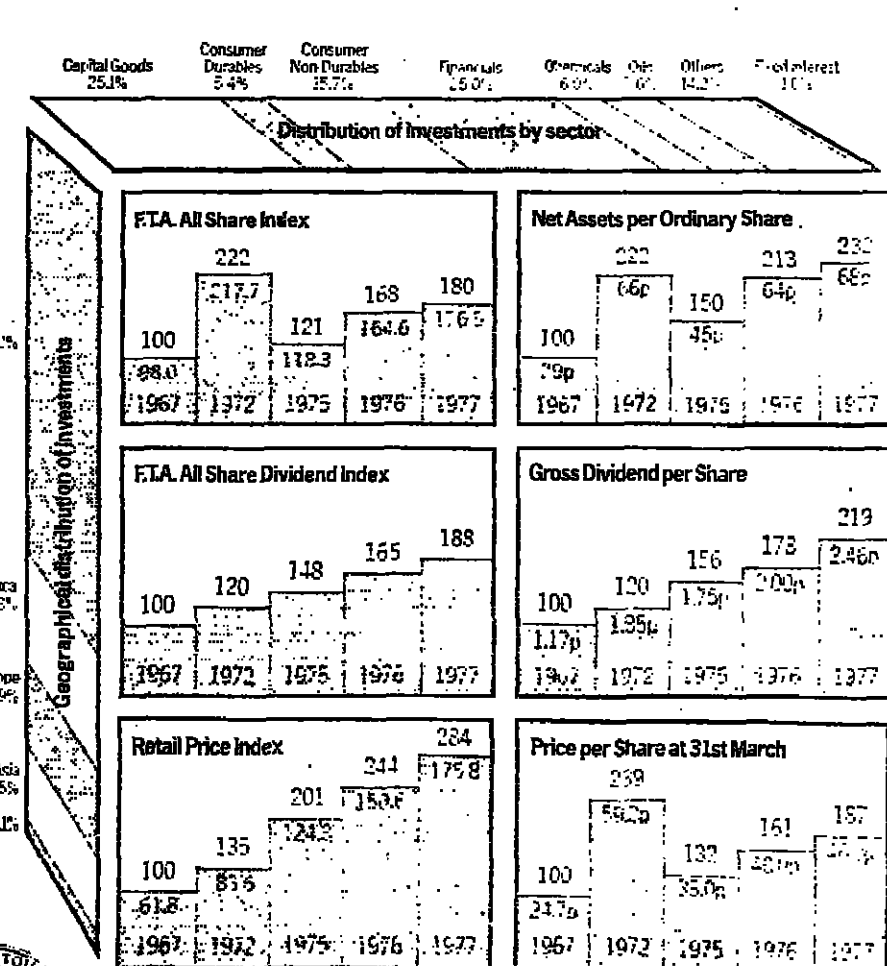
The TUC's answer to low investment is to call for more government intervention to increase, and if necessary implement, new spending plans. The government's "high growth" industry through its industrial strategy. Neither is very convincing.

Roger Vielvoys

Caroline Atkinson

Atlas Electric and General Trust Limited.

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A member of the Touche, Remnant Group of Companies. Total funds under Group management exceed £600 million.

The Accounts can be obtained from Atlas Electric, Winchester House, 71 London Wall, London EC2N 1BH.

Business Diary: Upon this bank and shoal of time...

Davies writes: Sir Christopher Soames seemed to have called for a "try problem" quite soon. I called him on hearing of his move to the board of Mianetti's. M. M. & Sons, a family if a little small, "I feel fine", named that his non-part-time job did not give up politics. By of late, Sir announced that, on twice, he would delay for a Conservative stepped down as vice of the EEC and as member for External at the end of last January underwent a bank job. Sir said that Evelyn had asked him for a chat after Sir Christopher had no other to fire.



Photograph by David Jones

Standing and yet not standing: Sir Christopher Soames at Rothschild's yesterday.

name forward for any Conservative seats, although he added that he would be seeing his doctors again "in two or three months' time".

Sir Christopher had been seen as a leading contender to stand for the vacancy at Saffron Walden caused by the death of his fellow "European", Sir Peter Kirk.

"The experience that will be of most use to Rothschild's," he told me, "is that of the last four years as vice-president of the (European) Commission and as Commissioner for External Relations."

The Community did 40 per

cent of the world's trade, he went on, and external credit had been his department's main responsibility.

Sir Christopher has held two previous directorships, both running from the time he (then Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries) lost office in the general election of 1964, and until he went to Paris four years later.

He was a director of Decca and of James H. & Co., a small Newark brewer, later acquired by Courage, itself about to disappear into the cigarette makers Imperial Group.

It seems clear that both Sir Christopher and Rothschild's are serious about his re-entry in politics. Indeed, Sir Christopher bridled slightly when I moved on from enquiries after his health and political future to the matter of the bank appointment. Lots of Conservative MPs had jobs outside the House, he said.

His main responsibility at Rothschild's will be the development of international business. It is perhaps as well that he is not directly involved in the property side.

He had satisfactorily disposed of the lease on his Brussels home, he told me, but having rid himself of one central London flat he had since been obliged to pay "double for one half as nice and twice as far out".

In comes Sir Christopher, out goes Raymond Bonham Carter, a director of merchant bankers, Warburgs, who is to succeed Sir Kenneth Odgers, as director of the Department of Industry's Industrial Development Unit.

Bonham Carter (brother of Mark and son of Violet) will be on a two to three year secondment after Odgers decided to join Sir Arnold Weinstock's GEC as an associate director. Warburgs and Bonham Carter were approached by emissaries from the Industry Secretary, Eric Varley, and decided to take the offer within two or three days.

"We strongly believe in the continuing and increasing exchange of personnel between Whitehall and the City. We have already carried through a number of similar exchanges and it was not too difficult to decide," Bonham Carter told us yesterday.

As head of the IDU which is responsible for formulating all applications for government financial assistance—selective schemes for stimulating investment in industry and rescue packages included—Bonham Carter's credentials are impeccable.

He has spent his career in the City, first with Schroders and then with the Bank of England, where for five years until 1963 he served as an adviser.

Ross Davies closes his Portuguese notebook.

I learnt something about the Portuguese—among others—during a well-attended Lisbon International (Industrial) Fair.

It showed me, for instance, that far from seeing technology as at worst a threat and at best a bore, the Portuguese respond with a wonder and an enjoyment, perhaps.

How else can one explain the sightseers, from pairs of young

lovers to mums, dads and toddlers, whom it cost 25 pence to enter, each to troop around displays entitled "Technical assistance in the construction of by-product coke plants"?

The very creditable British stand concentrated on such worthy and exportable items as forklift trucks, a rare sight of fancy being a vehicle called the Iron Fairy. By far the biggest stand, however, was that of the USSR.

This showed everything from a model of the advanced coke plant to herbs and—Portugal, very naughty to my mind—tins of Caspian sardines.

I saw books, most of them by or about Lenin, not only in Russian and Portuguese but in French and English, the most popular foreign languages.

Nor that I expect anybody will believe it, but when I picked up and opened the English version of Lenin's On Britain the first page I saw read:

Great Britain has protected Portugal and her colonies in order to fortify her own position in the fight against her rivals. In return Britain has received commercial privileges, preferential conditions importing goods and especially capital into Portugal and her colonies.

In Alhambra for the annual conference of our own Electrical Contractors' Association I was amused to hear that the hotel fires had failed and the 360 delegates, the cream of the British electrical industry, were issued with candles to light their way to bed.

Prices turn easier

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

* Ex. dividend, a \$2.00; b Forecast dividend, c Corrected dividend, e Interim payment made, f Price at acquisition. Dividend and yield exclude a special payment, h Bid company, i Pre-emptive rights, j Special earnings, k Capital distribution, l New issue, m Series or share split, n Tax free, y Price adjusted for late delinquencies. . . Significant dates.

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES

The Times Share Indices for 1968-67 (base date June 3, 1964) are shown as of June 3, 1968:

	Index No.	Div. Yield %	Share Indx. No.	Yield %
Largest	248.88	4.93	Previous	248.88
The Times Industrial Share Index	248.88	4.93	116.69	15.41
Largest Cos.	183.28	6.02	110.97	16.72
Smaller Cos.	179.38	7.04	125.83	19.21
Small Cos.	220.45	6.98	133.88	20.85
Consumer Goods	164.97	11.37	21.91	21.94
Store Shares	145.93	6.99	8.41	14.75
Largest financial shares	184.06	6.42	-	135.01
Largest industrial shares	185.06	6.74	-	136.75
Common stock shares	229.97	4.13	16.93	221.67
Gold Mining shares	206.18	8.28	39.93	250.38
Industrial debt securities	95.05	12.77	-	39.28
Preferential stocks	95.05	12.77	-	57.81
% of Net Worth	25.4	12.17	-	20

* A record of The Times Industrial Share Indices is given below:-

	High	Low
1958-59	(158.07)	69.15
1959-60	(158.97)	37.62
1960-61	(158.97)	37.62
1961-62	(158.97)	37.62
1962-63	(158.97)	37.62
1963-64	(158.97)	37.62
1964-65	(158.97)	37.62
1965-66	(158.97)	37.62
1966-67	(158.97)	37.62
1967-68	(158.97)	37.62

* Flat interest yield.

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Scientist or Engineer for Spacelab Flight

The European Space Agency (ESA) requires a qualified Scientist or Engineer to become Europe's first man or woman in space, as a member of the first Spacelab mission in 1980.

Spacelab is a laboratory which will provide the means of performing scientific experiments under 'weightless' conditions during a seven-day mission in orbit around the earth aboard the "Shuttle" Orbiter - part of NASA's Space Transportation System.

The European crew-member will be expected to fly with an American colleague, taking turns to supervise experiments involving the following disciplines: materials science; atmospheric physics; life sciences; earth observations; astronomy; solar physics and technology.

Candidates must have a degree in science, engineering, or at least five years' active experience in one or more of the disciplines involved with this flight.

They must also be able to work in the remaining disciplines, as they may be in charge of experiments in those fields during the mission.

Candidates must be physically fit, currently under 47 years of age, and between 153cm and 190cm in height. They will be subject to stringent medical and psychological tests.

The successful candidate will be selected for the first mission from a maximum of four Europeans who will be given ESA employment contracts.

The contracts will run from about the end of this year until the completion of the flight, to cover a six-month training period.

British nationals should submit their applications in the first instance:

(i) name and address (ii) age (iii) height (iv) scientific or engineering qualifications with date and place of award (v) brief curriculum vitae, highlighting relevant scientific experience.

Applications must be received by June 29th 1977. (Candidates already aware of this opportunity should note the extended closing date).

Please forward to: Department of Industry,
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Applicants should have fast typing speeds and initiative for the exciting variety of work offered. Holidays

honoured.

Phone R.M., at 01-629 9933.

CAREER IN FINANCE £3,800 NEG.

Opportunity to work as a right-hand to a successful, well-known, City Director in a large City Merchant Bank. He wants someone who, along with good secretarial skills, can develop the showman to report to him on all matters of finance and act as a liaison between the bank and the City. The position involves a wide range of secretarial duties and is a full-time post. Salary is £3,800 per annum plus benefits. Please apply to the Personnel Officer, 100 Strand, London W11 1NG. 01-228 9725.

SENIOR SECRETARIES RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

173 New Bond St., W.1.
01-499 6092 01-493 5987

SH/SECRETARY—CONS—OFFICE MANAGER/ESS (28-40), required

with small American legal firm in the City. Duties include hotel and travel bookings—both for principals and visitors—very simple bookkeeping and a variety of other administrative work. To £4,000.

Monica Grove

Recruitment Limited
Telephone 01-839 7082

Remember

appears every
Wednesday and Thursday

COOK AND HOUSEMAN

Reliable couple of 2 girls wanted for summer or permanent in the South of France. Excellent accommodation. Fare paid. Write Box 1943 J, The Times.

DORSET FAMILY need young, qualified cook during holidays

mid-July for approx. 2 weeks. Salary £2,500. Driver essential. Salary £1,500. Please apply to: Mrs. Marsh, 100 Strand, London W11 1NG. 01-228 9725.

MARRIED COUPLE as cook/butler

two in family with daily help. Excellent salary. Write to: Mrs. Marsh, 100 Strand, London W11 1NG. 01-228 9725.

COME AND ENJOY A WEEK Highly qualified, experienced, and

at 27 Regent St. W.1. 01-499 6092

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments

WORLD'S LEADING AND LARGEST TV NEWS AGENCY EXCITING SECRETARIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Visnews have two openings for Shorthand Secretaries, looking for lively and varied jobs—one Secretary will work in our London Newsroom, and the other in the Film Production Department. Starting salaries will be commensurate with age and experience and other benefits include excellent working conditions in our superb modern building, subsidised restaurant, staff bus service linking with local stations, social club, free life insurance, 3 weeks' holiday rising to 4 (this year's arrangements honoured). Please apply to: Jane Webb, Personnel Officer, Visnews Limited, Cumberland Avenue, London NW10 7EH. 01-965 7733.

IPC MAGAZINES LTD.

Require a Secretary to the Editor of two leading specialist publications

Interesting and rewarding post. Applicants must be over 21 and capable of shorthand.

Telephone F. Bennett 01-634 4300

THE SHERATON SKYLINE

One of Heathrow's leading hotels has vacancies for 2 Shorthand Secretaries.

We are looking for someone who has excellent shorthand and typing skills, the ability to deal effectively with senior executives, an excellent telephone manner, and the ability to work under pressure. Our Shorthand Secretaries are a key member of the hotel's staff and therefore we offer an attractive salary and benefits package. If you are interested please contact Personnel on 01-759 2555.

AUDIO SECRETARY

required for International Company in West End. The successful applicant will enjoy meeting people and accepting responsibility.

Salary £3,000 p.a.
Holiday arrangements honoured.
Call Mr. House on 353 2891.

INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM

£3,500 p.a. + negotiable.
Young firm in Mayfair requires qualified Shorthand Secretary to work in the City. The successful applicant will enjoy meeting people and accepting responsibility.

Salary £3,500 p.a.
Holiday arrangements honoured.
Call Mr. House on 353 2891.

WERE YOU PAID MONDAY AND TUESDAY THIS WEEK?

Regular Drake Temporary Staff work. They also benefit from good rates, a holiday bonus and a varied selection of assignments. For more details call Debbie on 734 6011, Drake Overseas (Agency), 225 Regent St., W.1.

BOOKKEEPING ASST. TO £3,600

Interesting role in small, friendly department. The successful applicant will enjoy meeting people and accepting responsibility.

Salary £3,600 p.a.
Holiday arrangements honoured.
Call Mr. House on 353 2891.

ADMINISTRATOR

If your forte is office management with min. secretarial skills, you would like a small, busy environment dealing with courses and seminars and aged 25-30 then you might well enjoy this key position. Salary £3,500 net. Telephone F.C.B. Associates. 284 4235.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE NO SHORTHAND CIRCA £3,000

Unfrustrated, happy all-rounder with min. 5 years' experience in a busy office. The successful applicant will enjoy meeting people and accepting responsibility.

Salary £3,000 p.a.
Holiday arrangements honoured.
Call Mr. House on 353 2891.

EXPERIENCED BUSINESS PERSON, 20s. Good appearance, good

looking for a top P.A./Secretary. You will be working for the Managing Director in plush offices in S.W.1. Good secretarial skills are required for this demanding position. Age 25-40.

Salary £3,000 p.a.
Holiday arrangements honoured.
Call Mr. House on 353 2891.

EUROPEAN TRAVEL GROUP seek motivated P.A. Secretary

to work in the City. The successful applicant will enjoy meeting people and accepting responsibility.

Salary £3,000 p.a.
Holiday arrangements honoured.
Call Mr. House on 353 2891.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY, 1-day work. See 12

Crane.

DOMESTIC SITUATIONS

BUTLER, COOK & MAID

required for prominent Saudi Arabian household. Spoken Arabic and English essential. Must have a keen knowledge of Middle Eastern social customs and courtesies.

Qualities required:
BUTLER: Experience in handling household staff.
COOK: Experience in Middle Eastern cuisine.
MAID: Experience in working with household staff.

Write permit a necessary requirement.
Salary negotiable.
Applications in writing to c/o Mr. C. Simpson, 1 Apollo House, Broadlands Road, London, N.8.

COOK AND HOUSEMAN

Reliable couple of 2 girls wanted for summer or permanent in the South of France. Excellent accommodation. Fare paid. Write Box 1943 J, The Times.

KINDLY GENTLE LADY

required as companion/help for an elderly lady and her husband. Living in a comfortable home with a garden. Salary negotiable. Write to: Mrs. Marsh, 100 Strand, London W11 1NG. 01-228 9725.

SECRETARIAL

Audio Secretary required for Oil Company

With offices in West End. Must have knowledge of Spanish.

£3,500 per annum.
5 weeks' annual holiday.
Phone 493 8776 for appointment.

SECOND SECRETARY

REQUIRED FOR SENIOR BANKING DIRECTOR

This is a varied and interesting job demanding first-class shorthand and typing skills, and a pleasant telephone manner. We are seeking a well-educated, adaptable person with a minimum of two years' experience who would enjoy working as part of a small team. Knowledge of languages an asset.

Salary minimum of £3,000 negotiable. Excellent working conditions in modern office near Green Park.

If you are interested please write or telephone to:
MISS HILARY WIDING
A to 11 HAY HILL, LONDON W1X 2LP
01-493 9287

LARGE INTERNATIONAL FIRM OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

has vacancies for the following —
AUDIO SECRETARY/SUPERVISOR

Person to be responsible for supervising the work of other staff in the Tax Department. Relevant professional and sound business experience essential. Salary negotiable but will be commensurate with age and experience.

AUDIO TYPIST

Two vacancies in the Tax Pool. Good speeds required for report typing, correspondence and a minimum amount of figure work.

SCHEDULE TYPIST

One person with sound schedule experience and able to produce accurate work to tight deadlines within the Tax Department.

Salary for the Audio and Schedule Typists from £2,500 to £2,900. According to age and experience. 5 weeks' annual holiday. For further details, please contact: MISS J. KELLY on 01-236 1505, extension 262

PERSONNEL

Various secretarial vacancies in the City. The successful applicant will enjoy meeting people and accepting responsibility.

Salary £3,000 p.a.
Holiday arrangements honoured.
Call Mr. House on 353 2891.

SILVER LINGS!

Justification grows with a top secretarial position. The successful applicant will enjoy meeting people and accepting responsibility.

Salary £3,000 p.a.
Holiday arrangements honoured.
Call Mr. House on 353 2891.

JOYCE GUINNESS BUREAU

21 ABRINGTON AVE. S.W.3
(Overground Station) is a new firm of secretaries. The successful applicant will enjoy meeting people and accepting responsibility.

Salary £3,000 p.a.
Holiday arrangements honoured.
Call Mr. House on 353 2891.

NOW THAT THE PARTY IS OVER...

Now that the party is over, the successful applicant will enjoy meeting people and accepting responsibility.

Salary £3,000 p.a.
Holiday arrangements honoured.
Call Mr. House on 353 2891.

HERE COMES THE SUN!

Temporary Secretaries planning to enjoy their summer holidays. The successful applicant will enjoy meeting people and accepting responsibility.

Salary £3,000 p.a.
Holiday arrangements honoured.
Call Mr. House on 353 2891.

TAKE AN INTEREST IN ECONOMICS

Chief Economic Adviser's office. The successful applicant will enjoy meeting people and accepting responsibility.

Salary £3,000 p.a.
Holiday arrangements honoured.
Call Mr. House on 353 2891.

CHAIRMAN'S P.A. IN SMALL TRAVEL FIRM

Opportunity for a good person to work in a small, friendly travel firm. The successful applicant will enjoy meeting people and accepting responsibility.

Salary £3,000 p.a.
Holiday arrangements honoured.
Call Mr. House on 353 2891.

INTERVIEW/NEGOTIATOR

for a leading international company. The successful applicant will enjoy meeting people and accepting responsibility.

Salary £3,000 p.a.
Holiday arrangements honoured.
Call Mr. House on 353 2891.

OFFICE/SHOP ASSISTANT for busy Soho wine merchant. Good

salary and training. 6 day week. 435 2732.

ANTIQUE SHOP, Fulham, requires Assistant. Assistant. Tues-Fri.

091 11623.

NON-SECRETARIAL

SECRETARIAL

FOR SENIOR DIRECTOR OF SMALL WEST COMPANY

Comfortable modern and rewarding job. Right person. Must be shrewd, and a skill. Please apply to: Mr. Garvin, 01-835 0897.

ARE YOU BORI

We now have a position in our West End group. The successful applicant will enjoy meeting people and accepting responsibility.

Salary £2,236

FREE TO TRAVEL

International Council. The successful applicant will enjoy meeting people and accepting responsibility.

Salary £2,236

RECEPTIONIST/T CIRCA £2.80

Get really involved in a busy office. The successful applicant will enjoy meeting people and accepting responsibility.

Salary £2,236

Tempting Ti

SECRETARY (100/50) knowledge of French a man required for E.C. possibly a part-time post.

Salary £2,236

START TODAY PAY FRIDAY

SECRETARY (100/50) knowledge of French a man required for E.C. possibly a part-time post.

Salary £2,236

ARTISTIC TEMPERAMENT

Totoring

ycle accidents
se faster
an traffic

ents to cyclists have been in-
ing over the past two years at a
that exceeds the growth in cycle
c. It is a worrying trend and
for which there is no obvious
mation.

ring the 15 years to 1974, cycle
lies fell by 40 per cent. Bicycle
had been falling as well for most
at period, and at the same time
ational cycling proficiency scheme
helping to ensure that many
cyclists did not venture on to
roads without basic training.
ut three million children have
d the proficiency test, and the
work continues; but cycling
lies increased by 17 per cent
1974 to 1975 and 11 per cent last
year.

Meanwhile, the use of cycles
by only 3 per cent.

the last quarter of last year
ties rose by 10 per cent over
the period of the previous year,
though cycle traffic dropped by
same amount. The rise automa-
bly had something to do with it,
it cannot be the whole explanation.
he first three months of this year
further rise in accident figures.
there are more cycles on the
is shown by the sales figures. In
fewer than 550,000 new bicycles
sold; but since then, helped by
nery crisis and two fine sum-
sales total have almost
ed. More youngsters have been
bicycles for the first time and
people have been returning to
after a long gap.

First this background, the Royal
ity for the Prevention of Acci-
ents which runs the proficiency
e, has just issued a new batch of
ity material on the theme, "Give
a chance". As that slogan im-
the publicity is largely directed
ivers of cars and lorries.

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ivers of cars and lorries.

oadcasting

to the celebrations with the river pageant and fireworks in Silver Jubilee (BBC 1 9.50)
specially extended News at Ten (ITV 10.0). On a more serious note The World About
BC 2 9.35) shows Julian Mounter's worrying film on the wholesale slaughter of African
ants, Could Do Better? (ITV 11.30) looks at the education of immigrant children and
ing a Baby (BBC 2 7.5) charts the reaction of new parents to their offspring. Blue Peter
1.55) checks on the progress of pony graz, being trained for disabled riders.—T.S.

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Lancia Beta Monte-Carlo—the limitations of a sports car.

No one may drive a car unaccom-
panied until he or she is 17 and has
passed a driving test, but anyone of
any age may ride a bicycle on the
road without any training. Not sur-
prisingly, perhaps, the biggest increase
in cycle casualties has been among
children. One suspects that their in-
experience, as much as the behaviour
of motorists, is responsible.

Not that the motorist is always
wrong. Cyclists can be difficult to see
and they do include many young people
with little road sense. The most horri-
fying thing from a driver's point of
view, is the number of cyclists who
ride at night without lights. But
charge and counter-charges will do
nothing to reduce cycle casualties.
Even more training and tolerance on
both sides, are required.

Road test: Lancia
Beta Monte-Carlo

The Monte-Carlo Lancia's mid-engined
two-seater, reinforces my belief that to
enjoy a sports car it is necessary to
make some fairly considerable allow-
ances. My lasting memory is of dis-
comfort. The main trouble is a low
roof which may enhance the vehicle's
black appearance, but left me with so
little headroom that I had to drive
either with my head bent forward or
lying back almost horizontally in the
manner of a Grand Prix driver.

There seems to be an Italian assump-
tion that people who drive cars have
very long arms and exceptionally short
legs. I will admit to being just over
five feet tall, but there are others of
similar, if not greater, height, includ-
ing potential buyers of the Monte-
Carlo.

Two other drawbacks spoiled the car
for me. I concede that no sports car
is really complete without a throaty
roar from the exhaust; but the Monte-
Carlo's engine noise is persistent and
irritating. The Monte-Carlo is cer-
tainly not the car for a long journey.
There was also a lot of vibration and
noise from the road. I would have
thought, too, that much of the enjoy-
ment in driving a performance car
comes from a crisp gearchange. But
the Lancia's five-speed box is stiff and
just not good enough for a 55,000 car.
Driving a Ford Escort is a treat by
comparison.

If the car had been quieter and
more comfortable, I should probably
have appreciated its good points more.
It is, for instance, a good performer:
the 1995cc, 120bhp engine accelerates
from rest to 60mph in around nine
seconds, but when with the noise and
the poor gearchange it does not
feel as fast as that. Again, the virtual
absence of wind noise on the motorway
counts for little when the engine is so
raucous. On fuel consumption I
returned a modest 23mpg in town;

but cruising on the open road in fifth
gear I stretched the figure well into
the thirties.

I suppose, however, that for the
enthusiast the essence of a sports car
is its handling. In these respects the
Monte Carlo must be rated highly.
The shape, a Pininfarina design, is
both attractive and distinctive and
should provide more than the usual
amount of head-turning.

As a car that can be pushed round
confidently, safely and easily, the
Monte-Carlo is well up to standard
in handling, too; the mid-engined lay-
out, chosen for better weight distribu-
tion, must play its part here. For once,
good handling has not been achieved
at the expense of the ride, which,
although firm, is extremely good by
sports-car standards.

By moving the engine to the middle
of the car, Lancia has ruled out the
conventional boot; but there is a good
luggage area under the front seat.
It would have been handy, however, to
have a shelf inside the car for smaller
items so that the occupants might not
have had to raise the bonnet lid every
time they wanted to get at a briefcase.

The ventilation system is so poor that
the only way to get a good flow of air
in warm weather is to drive with the
windows open.

Speedometer law
A reader, Mr E. P. Clayton, of Swan-
sea, says that four months ago the
midcoast section of the M4 was jam-
med, putting the speedometer out of
action as well. He is still waiting for
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Under the Construction and Use
Regulations, it is an offence not to
maintain the speedometer in good
working order. In defence, however,
if a driver is caught with a faulty
speedometer he can plead that steps
have been taken to have a perfect
one as soon as possible. There is
no legal requirement to have a
mileometer.

I am indebted to Mr Hans Wolff, of
Henley-on-Thames, for pointing out
that, unlike saloon cars, three-door and
four-door hatchback cars can be liable
for goods vehicle duties. The three-
door cars in the same category as
saloon cars and regards them as dual-
purpose vehicles.

While the road tax for a private
car is a fixed amount, the goods duty
varies according to the vehicle's
unladen weight. For example, a
Fiesta owner using his car to carry
goods would still pay £50; but a
Chrysler Alpine would attract a duty
of £70 and the new Rover 3500 £84.
The definition of a goods vehicle is
sufficiently broad to have been held
to include the carrying of special
photographer by its equipment.

Peter Waymark

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